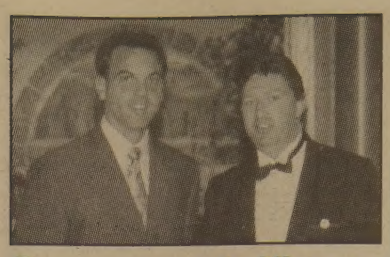


Oscars come to Niagara
. . . page 24

Niagara News

www.niagara-news.com

Ben Guyett at After Hours
. . . page 22

April 6, 2001 | FREE | Volume 31 Issue 15

Niagara News is produced by the Journalism–Print students at Niagara College, Welland Campus

'Powerful' student voices silent for SAC election

Outgoing SAC president Ryan McLaughlin, left, shakes hands with incumbent president Jeff Dutcher, right, and Christopher Newman, vice-president in charge of public relations, at centre. Karen Brown, vice-president in charge of internal affairs, was absent at the time of the photo.

Photo by Sean Taylor

By TINA LANZILLOTTA
Staff Writer

In addressing students at the President's Forum on March 12, Niagara College President Dan Patterson says he was "really disappointed" there wasn't an election this year for the Student Administrative Council (SAC).

"It's a problem throughout the college system," says the president about the lack of interest in campaigning and voting for elections.

Patterson says the situation is disappointing because "the student voice is more powerful than ever," yet they don't exercise their right to use it.

This year is the first time in the history of Niagara in which all the positions in SAC have been acclaimed. The members of next year's SAC at the Welland campus are Jeff Dutcher, president, Karen Brown, vice-president (VP) in charge of internal affairs, and Christopher Newman, vice-president in charge of public relations.

Brown, a first-year Journalism-Print program student, says she expected there would be an election. "I didn't expect to be acclaimed. At a college level I thought of student leadership as something that there would be a high level of both interest and competition (in), so I was really surprised to find out that I was acclaimed for something like VP."

Jeff Dutcher, who is this year's vice-president in charge of internal affairs, says he has mixed feelings about the fact there were no elections this year. Dutcher, an Interactive Multimedia (Post-graduate) student, says that although he didn't have to run against anyone, it "looks bad" because it seems as though "nobody noticed or even tried."

This year's situation is "unique," says Lou DiMattio, assistant to the director of student services and college registrar, who has been the SAC liaison since the 1980s.

Continued on page 3

Exclusive online ombud coming soon to Niagara

By JENNIFER PICKETT
Staff Writer

Niagara College students will soon have a new way to make themselves heard.

Brigitte Chiki, the college's director of student services at the Welland campus for the past seven years, said last year she was at a student government meeting and the topic turned to student complaints.

She said everyone wanted to know what could be done.

Schools normally hire an ombudsperson, which the Oxford Dictionary defines as an official within an institution who investigates complaints from employees and students.

"It's an unbiased mediator person who hears both sides of an issue," said Chiki. "If we hire someone, it will be just another college person to the students."

The Student Administrative Council came up with the idea of an online ombud.

Chiki said to herself, "What a great idea!" Together with three students from the student government, they began the design.

After doing some research, Chiki said she found out that Niagara was the only college in the province to have an online ombud. The Web site will be available to Niagara College students and will be linked to the college's home page. The site includes Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and a suggestion box.

Chiki said she thinks this will be easier for students. The service is free and the program requires money only for promotion. Everything is confidential and can be done anonymously, but if the student wants feedback a name and/or student number is required. A trained ombud will answer the students' questions or direct students to see an official, such as a financial aid officer or perhaps the police.

"We hope to get a 24- to 48-hour turnaround on their problems," said Chiki.

Reports will be generated to find out in which areas students make most of their complaints.

Chiki, of Welland, started working at the college in the job placement office and then became a counsellor for 12 years before becoming the director of student services. She has been working with the student government for 20 years.

Chiki said the Web page has been a lot of hard work but "we know it's only going to get better."

Brigitte Chiki, director of student services, says having an online ombud will make it easier for students to convey concerns to college administrators.

Photo by Brad Demers

INDEX

Campus Coverage	5	Global Perspectives	18
Reel Life	7	Community Unity	19
Teachers@Niagara	8	Hire Learning/Help Wanted	20
Technology@Niagara	9	Sportsbeat	21
Personalities	15-16	Entertainment	22
College Connections	17	College Roundup	23

Breaking news: Fire at Glendale residence

By MIKE VAN KOOTEN
Staff Writer

Three Niagara College students were taken to hospital early yesterday morning after a fire started at the college's Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Students Matt Hewko and Jeffrey Young were treated for smoke inhalation and released from hospital soon after.

Dustin Weightman, of Fenelon Falls, Ont., was taken to Erie County Medical Center, in Buffalo, N.Y., with serious burns. He was described by those at the scene as asthmatic.

Weightman, 20, is a Niagara College student. His program could not be confirmed at press time.

The fire alarm was sounded at the Taylor Road residence at 4:16 a.m. and most of the 180 residents were evacuated from the building.

Tom Lafrance, of the Ontario Fire Marshal's

Continued on page 9

MUSIC

Supporting 258 art groups

For grant information, call 1-800-398-1141

AS SEEN BY

du Maurier ARTS™

TRANSITIONS

Students feel left out of election process

Continued from page 1

"We've had vacancies and positions being acclaimed in the past, but this is really the first time that every position has been acclaimed."

DiMattio says if there had not have been anyone coming forward there would have been another by-election called in September to fill the vacancies.

Brown says having been acclaimed to her position hasn't hampered her joy at becoming a SAC vice-president, but she fears it might compromise her credibility. "I think that next year, I have to work that much harder to prove that I can do it and that I am there for the student body and not just someone that was just the only one for the student body."

Brown says having been involved in SAC this year as a student representative, she is confident she will be able to handle the position.

Dutcher says he "wouldn't know" the feeling of winning an election because last year he was appointed as well. "Nobody ran against me the previous year either. It does kind of look like 'hey, I've won!' But in the other sense would I have really won if somebody else ran against me?"

Some students say the problem isn't the lack of interest in SAC, but rather the lack of promotion and awareness of SAC.

> ***'I wasn't really going out and letting everybody know. People came in here, they asked about it, and we gave them information. There were a few people who took out booklets, but not everybody responded, just the three of us basically.'***
>
> ***— Jeff Dutcher***

"In the three years that I've been (attending) to Niagara College in the technology department, which is down in Lundy and Voyageur, not once has anyone approached our class and told us about elections. I've never seen or know anything about elections or what SAC does. I've never heard of any of it," says Adam Deciccio, an Electronic Engineering Technician student. Deciccio says he and "most or all" of his classmates were unaware of any SAC elections or activities and would have liked it if someone from his program were elected into student government. "We (technology students) don't have a voice where SAC is concerned."

Reshma Dattu, a first-year student who is enrolled in the

> ***'If I haven't even heard about it, then why would I want to get involved?'***
>
> ***— Reshma Dattu***

Child and Youth Worker program, says she knew nothing about the elections. "If I haven't even heard about it, then why would I want to get involved?" says Dattu, adding, "If I had heard about it (elections), I would have to know more about it (SAC) to get involved."

Brad Germain, a first-year Broadcasting—Radio, Television and Film program student, says there wasn't sufficient advertising to indicate a campaign for SAC elections.

"Other than going directly to the SAC office and finding out myself, I've seen minimal posters and it doesn't seem that they've gone crazy with the idea. I don't know who's running and what they are running for, or if the elections are even over. I'm in the dark about the whole thing."

Dutcher, SAC's new president, says there wasn't much in the way of advertising for the elections. "Basically all we did was hang up posters," says Dutcher about his involvement in the campaign for SAC elections, adding, "I wasn't really going out and letting everybody know. People came in here, they asked about it, and we gave them information. There were a few people who took out booklets, but not everybody responded, just the three of us basically."

Dutcher says the students' complaints about the lack of advertising are "just an excuse."

"People have been saying that (lack of advertising) for everything but the thing is that they know where the poster boards are. It's the fact that they would rather complain that there isn't enough advertising, than to actually walk down another hallway to go look at basically what's going on."

Dutcher says SAC is not allowed to put posters on the walls or on glass due to the janitorial staff's complaints of posters leaving "too much of a mess."

Dutcher says he would "love" to put up more posters to promote the elections, but it is not feasible because they are restricted to using the pillars and glass bulletin boards.

"It would be excellent if we could put posters every 10 feet down the hallway. People would at least notice it, but it's not in our power to do that."

Dutcher says, "there wasn't exactly a budget" for the SAC elections campaign, but adds, "what else can you really do besides hanging up posters?"

Deciccio says he feels the posters aren't sufficient and more could have been done to promote the SAC campaign.

"Some people don't even read the poster boards," says

> ***'We've had vacancies and positions being acclaimed in the past, but this is really the first time that every position has been acclaimed.'***
>
> ***— Lou DiMattio***

Deciccio, adding, there should be a more personal approach. "It should be brought to the attention of the director of your program, who should come in and tell your class that this (election) is going on. Or someone from the student council should come to each class."

Deciccio says he is "annoyed" because he doesn't have a class representative who is supposed to inform the class of SAC activities, and says he feels it is up to SAC to see that they have one.

Dattu says SAC, as a representative, has not been doing a sufficient job informing the student body. "You (SAC) are here to represent us and we should have a good part in it, in what's going on." Dattu says

> ***'We (technology students) don't have a voice where SAC is concerned.'***
>
> ***— Adam Deciccio***

she feels the acclamations are a direct result of a lack of sufficient promotion and it is SAC's responsibility to get the message out to the students. "Otherwise it's the same people going through that same circle then. So, what's the point?"

DiMattio says it struck her as "odd" that more students didn't get involved, because this year SAC had done more to promote the campaign. "Normally in the past years we would put up posters, and notices would be in the handbook, and we would get candidates. This year we did so much more by doing the usual, plus advertising on the radio." DiMattio says there were newspaper ads in the *Niagara News* and program coordinators were notified by e-mail. DiMattio admits "the Welland campus P.A. (public address) system leaves a lot to be desired" and that something different has to be done. "Obviously the posters aren't working."

DiMattio says there is an important question that needs to be considered. "Is student government important to the students?"

Dutcher says there is a lot that SAC does for the students and those who are interested will go to the SAC office for the information they want. "We do what we can for the students. You know, they are paying for it, so why not give it back to them?"

While it's not clear where the problem lies with the election issue, Germain says he feels it's just politics. "To a certain extent, politics is a sticky issue. There is no black and white. Everything is grey in politics. There is no right or wrong. Because nobody ever really speaks, it is prewritten and it's all preconceived, and it's what everybody wants to hear and not anyone's actual opinion."

SAC 2001

Welland

President
Jeff Dutcher
VP Internal Affairs
Karen Brown
VP Public Relations
Christopher Newman

Maid of the Mist

President
Reginal Osborne
VP Internal Affairs
Glenn McFarlane
VP Public Relations
Bryan Cleaver

Glendale

President
Brodie Mosher
VP Internal Affairs
David Young
VP Public Relations
Eduardo Resendiz

• • •

Bulletin

SAC has approved changes to titles of executive members. See the report in the April 20 edition.

Niagara's second-year Journalism-Print students on 'write' path

After seven months and 14 newspapers, the *Niagara News* is undergoing personnel changes.

The Journalism-Print program second-year students are gone, but certainly not forgotten.

Their tenure at the college is ending with a one-month field placement at various publications, including community and daily newspapers, public relations firms and photography studios.

Students will be showing their skills in the newsrooms of The *Welland Tribune, The Niagara Falls Review, The Standard, Thorold News, Voice of Pelham, Lindsay This Week, Tekawennake, Meaford Express, The Red Deer Advocate* in Alberta and *What's Up Kids?* Magazine.

Others will be living the lives of public relations officers at Inniskillin Wines, United Way of South Niagara, Niagara College's Marketing and Communications Department and the March of Dimes. Students will be involved in production rooms at the *Brantford Expositor,* doing advertising sales at the *Ajax News Advertiser,* and handling photography at Carmen Cameras. Four are involved with a new E-zine "Passenger," an online communication business they are launching.

Clinton Haggart is working full-time as reporter/photographer at the *Clinton News-Record,* a job he started earlier this term. Stephen D'Orazio is employed full-time doing advertising and page production at the *Port Colborne Shopper,* a job he started in early March.

The program's first-year students are at the helm with three new editors: Brad Demers, 24, of Welland, as editor; Laura Lennie, 24, of Stoney Creek, Ont., as associate editor; and Mike Van Kooten, 19, of Welland, as assistant editor.

The 44-member class did the reporting, writing, editing, photography and layout and design of this edition.

The second, and final edition of the *Niagara News,* will be published on Friday, April 20.

presented by Niagara College SAC

YEAR END BASH 2001

Sold Out Last 3 Years

Get your tickets early

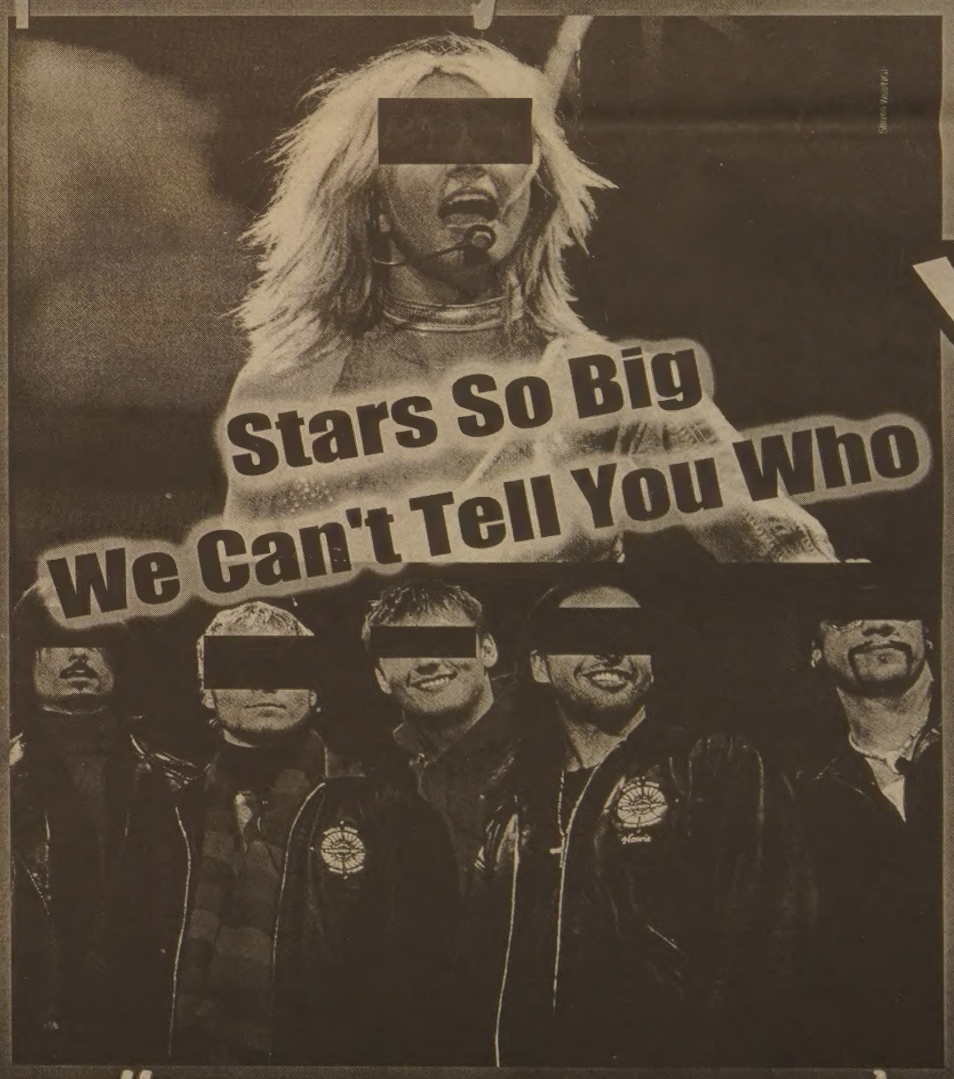
WIN

Your numbered ticket is your chance to win

Over $2500.00 in prizes, TV's Cell Phones, VCR's and much more.....

Live @ 11:30

Special Celebrity Performances



MUCH video dance

2 20' video screens live video all nite

Tickets in all SAC Offices just 2.00 in advance 6.00 at the door

BIG BUCKS MOUNTAIN LODGE

THURSDAY APRIL 12th 8:00

Join us for the last blast of the year, advance tickets good until 11pm ONLY...

Campus Coverage

Students voice opinions about Welland SAC

By KAREN RENEE
Staff Writer

Students at Niagara College's Welland campus said they want their voices to be heard and the Student Administrative Council (SAC) is listening.

SAC is the governing and legislative body for students at Niagara. Each campus, including Welland, Glendale in Niagara-on-the-Lake and the Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls, is composed of a SAC president, vice-president of public relations, vice-president of internal affairs and three student representatives. SAC, with the director of student services, is responsible for the organization of the athletic and extracurricular, social and academic functions.

It is not the meetings or organization that are a challenge for SAC members, but getting the word out to students, said Ryan McLaughlin, 23, Welland campus SAC president.

During the President's Advisory Forum on March 12, McLaughlin, of Welland, a second-year Journalism-Print program student, addressed the concerns of students not being aware of, or involved in, SAC. "I've talked to (Student Administrative Councils) across Canada and apathy is the No. 1 concern. It's sad."

In an interview from the Feb. 16 issue of the *Niagara News*, McLaughlin said, "It is a constant challenge to get students involved."

In the interview, McLaughlin said part of the issue is that class representatives are not appearing at meetings and, as a result, cannot return to their classes and present the information from the meetings to the student body.

Preston Richards, 20, of Welland, a first-year student in the Law and Security Administration (LASA) program, said he agrees with McLaughlin that part of the reason he is unaware of SAC events may be because of class representatives. "Class reps? I didn't know we had any. I don't understand what they do."

Andrew Gabrielli, 23, a first-year student in the Electrical Engineering Technician program, said late advertising might be one of the reasons for the lack of knowledge he has concerning the SAC events. "I read the bulletin boards, but everything is usually over by the time I read it."

Gabrielli, of Thorold, said a lack of knowledge and a lack of interest were responsible for his lack of awareness.

Guy VanKrimpen, of St. Catharines, a first-year student in the Art and Design Fundamentals — Graphic Design Production program, said the only SAC event he attended all year was the Orientation at the beginning of the year featuring the band Moist.

Asked to name some SAC activities, VanKrimpen, 23, responded, "Nothing, I have no idea."

Second-year student Chris Hintz, 21, of Kitchener, in the Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film program, said SAC is doing a poor job. "They don't do enough promotional stuff to advertise events coming up."

Classmate Eric Laakso, 20, of Sudbury, said he agreed with Hintz, but credited the SAC food drive for his survival. "I think SAC should have more events that are relevant to school, but the food drive they have where students can just go and pick up food is great. It is the only reason I am alive today."

Pamela Candy, of Mississauga, a first-year student in the Dental Assistant program, said more advertising would make a difference in her participation in SAC events. "The big sign outside the pub is good, but what is better than anything is to make it a big deal through word of mouth. Make everyone want to do it because their friends are there." Candy, 20, said, "Students want their voices to be heard." She added, it is important that SAC members are always available to listen.

Jennifer Brant, 19, a first-year student in the LASA program, said she agrees with Candy and values giving her opinion. Brant, of Welland, participated in SAC events and said it was difficult for her to choose a favourite. "The Tony Lee hypnotist, movie nights or the Raptors' game. I think I will like the Raptors' game the best." Brant said that she knew about SAC through her roommate, who is involved with SAC and the SAC bulletin boards.

Incoming SAC president for 2001-2002 school year, Jeff Dutcher, 21, said he is looking forward to "a hell of a lot of fun" and making sure the students are aware of SAC's role.

Dutcher, of Dunnville, is completing the Interactive Multimedia (Post-graduate) program and is returning to Niagara in September. Dutcher said his main concern is trying to reach everybody. "So many students don't know SAC or what we do. My main goal is to let them know who we are and why we're here, because we are here for them."

Questioned regarding the level of student apathy at Niagara College, Dutcher said he was looking forward to working with the students and getting their feedback. "They have a reason for their opinion, and my job as SAC president will be to find out why they feel the way they do and see how SAC can benefit from it."

Dutcher said it is important that students know that SAC is their centre and they should use it. "SAC is here for them. We are the ones that make things happen. We are a strong part of college life."

Residence provides students with many opportunities

By KAREN WALKER
Staff Writer

For students attending Niagara College next year who are looking to find a place to live, Niagara College Residence and Conference Centre could be the place.

The residence, which is directly across from the Welland campus of the college, is in its fourth year supplying a place for students living away from home.

The building is in pretty good shape, says Albert Tremblay, who works at the residence.

Tremblay, 60, of Welland, works on the maintenance of the building and does any repairs that are needed.

He says in his 3½ years of working there, no major repairs have been needed.

Tremblay says it's a good place for students to live during their school year.

"I'd say it's a good place to live. The kids get the opportunity to make it what they want."

The residence building can hold about 230 students and consists of 114 suites.

The suites offer two separate bedrooms, a three-piece bathroom and a kitchen with a fridge and microwave. The rooms also come with a television, cable, telephone line and available Internet connection.

The majority of students found in the residence, since it opened have been first-year students.

Fiona Lowe, 19, of Brantford, Ont., a first-year student in the Pharmacy Technician program, has lived in the building since September and says the best aspect of living there is being able to meet so many people.

"I got to meet everyone quicker and everyone living here was in the same position as me," says Lowe.

Lowe says she plans to return to the residence next year.

The Welland campus is less than a five-minute walk from the residence.

Amie Mazak, 19, of St. Thomas, Ont., a first-year student in the Recreation and Leisure Services program, says living in residence has many advantages, one of them being the location.

"I have no car here, so there was no worry about getting to school," says Mazak.

She says another perk was not having to worry about paying bills.

The residence cost is $481.50 a month and this includes utilities, telephone and cable. Unlike some housing and apartments, students only pay for the eight months they are in school, rather than pay for a whole year.

Living at residence offers many social aspects of college life as well for the students.

On the main floor of the building, there are a games room and a common area for students to socialize and meet new people. During the school year, the residence tries to organize many social events to get people to come out.

Jennifer Johnston, 19, of Campbellford, Ont., a first-year student in the Child and Youth Worker program, says her best memory of living in the residence was the close friendships she made.

"If I needed someone to talk to, there were always people down the hall," says Johnston.

She says she is considering reapplying to live there next year and encourages others to do so too.

"It's an excellent opportunity to discover who you can see yourself living with and who you couldn't."

There are more opportunities to take advantage of, says Susan DeKoter, general manager of the Niagara College Residence and Conference Centre.

DeKoter, 27, who lives in the residence, has the job of ensuring the students and staff are happy, along with taking care of what goes on in the building everyday.

"Residence is like a community atmosphere," she says.

"We are making improvements on a day-to-day basis."

DeKoter says when maintenance problems arise, they are attended to immediately and everything is controlled to the best of their ability.

"We are headed in the right direction," she says. "We need feedback from the students."

The residence building offers 24-hour security and has a strict policy for visiting guests.

Laundry facilities and lounges to study in are also in the building for the benefit of the students.

Mazak says she will be returning next year and agrees it's "definitely a good experience."

"Everyone should experience it once," she says.

Johnston says the experience is one she will not forget.

"It was a rewarding experience, one that you can't describe in words unless you have experienced it yourself."

Niagara College Residence and Conference Centre is at 555 First Ave., right beside the college. To get more information on living in the residence for next year, call (905) 732-9700.

Aboriginal Department faces cultural awareness challenge

By JASON ROMANIUK
Staff Writer

Making the public aware of a single idea is hard enough; making the public aware of an entire culture is an even greater challenge.

Gail Lafleur, manager of the Aboriginal Education Department at Niagara College in Welland, is facing such a challenge.

"I want to change things," says Lafleur, of her main goal in her professional career. Lafleur has been working for 10 years in aboriginal education, although it is an area for which she didn't always seem destined.

Lafleur, a native of Sudbury, Ont., said she was originally in college to become an accountant. She earned her diploma but says she quickly realized that it wasn't the career for her. "I wasn't meeting my potential." At 28 years of age, Lafleur went back to college, but this time with the intention of becoming a teacher.

After her schooling Lafleur was hired at Brock University in St. Catharines as a native counsellor. "At Brock I learned that a lot of aboriginal students don't utilize mainstream sources."

In 1997 Lafleur came to Niagara College in Welland to take over as manager of the Aboriginal Education Department, which, she says, was an opportunity to improve the system.

She says aboriginal students are not given a chance to learn history from their cultural perspective. "If you can't hear your own story in your own country, you will leave." Lafleur says everyone should contribute in a class setting and not just the teacher.

Lafleur says her job has a lot of different responsibilities, such as supervising the department, securing funds, promoting services, counselling, dealing with the college's academic divisions, and networking with other aboriginal groups.

Lafleur, of half-native descent herself, says she still sees the negative connotations associated with her culture. "Ignorance is still there. Being an aboriginal at this level is not an easy thing."

Lafleur says that even with the busy schedule and the minor everyday problems, the job has many positives. "I like the students most. I enjoy sharing with them the struggles that I went through."

Each year the aboriginal department is developing and, Lafleur says, she is excited about the future and the prospect of the department partnering with other aboriginal organizations to sponsor specific programs. "We have a strong connection to the Six Nations Reserve, which we utilize to the fullest potential," she says.

Lafleur says she enjoys working at Niagara College and is pleased with the atmosphere at the Welland campus, especially after working at Brock University, in St. Catharines. "It was nice to come to college after working at a university level," adding her wage is "competitive."

THE HEAT IS ON

Niagara student dreams of rock stardom

By CHRISTOPHER NEWMAN
Staff Writer

Someday you may be telling your friends you went to Niagara College with a rock star.

Niagara College student John Norris, 19, of the Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film program, may be on his way to success in the Canadian music scene.

Norris's band, Ages of Yellow, has been together since March 2000, but already the band members have played in their home town of Paris, Ont., won their high school Battle of the Bands and recorded a two-song CD. One song, called *Take Me Away*, which is featured on the album, can be heard on 90.1 FM, the college radio station.

"It's really weird," says Norris, about hearing his song on campus radio. "It's an awesome feeling."

Norris says his song being on the radio has caused him to consider making music his career choice.

"I seriously want to do that for my life. If I work hard at it, maybe it'll happen."

Norris says he isn't sure whether or not Ages of Yellow will be the band he reaches success with because the members "can't quite get it together." However, he says he hasn't ruled out the possibility.

Norris plays lead guitar in Ages of Yellow and is joined by his twin brother, Matt, on rhythm guitar, Scott Wheelton on drums and Doug Hamor on bass guitar and lead vocals.

According to its Web site, www.agesofyellow.com, the band originally had Matt on drums, but they wanted a "thicker sound" so the members decided to ask Wheelton to join. Initially, the band played covers of Silverchair, Blink 182 and other similar bands.

The band's efforts were rewarded on May 18 last year when it won a Battle of the Bands at Paris District High School, in Paris.

"It was a great experience," says Norris. "The crowd was really into it and it felt good to win."

Norris says Niagara College is a good school for musicians because campus radio is open to playing student material. "Lots of people know about us now. I guess word spreads."

Ages of Yellow is looking toward recording another album in the future. Norris says the members are talking about perhaps recording another six songs this summer, if they can find the time.

Recently, Ages of Yellow competed in the Niagara College Tri-Campus Battle of the Bands. However, it finished out of the top three.

Norris has been playing guitar for three years and says The Smashing Pumpkins and the Matthew Good Band influence him.

You can listen for Ages of Yellow's new single, *Some Girls Try Too Hard,* on Heat 90.1 FM, the campus radio station, in the near future.

Monica Lapajne, a second-year Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film program student, provides on-air commentary during the Heat 90.1 FM kickoff party, which took place on March 28, in the Simcoe building, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. See story in our April 20 edition.

Photo by Christopher Newman

Glendale campus 'gorgeous place to work,' says Cottrell

By CASSANDRA SCAPILLATI
Staff Writer

Niagara College's Glendale campus, in Niagara-on-the-Lake, is "a gorgeous place to work," says Sandy Cottrell, registration assistant.

Cottrell, 45, of Niagara Falls, handles the registration process of students attending Niagara College. She deals face to face with students regarding problems they have with registering and graduating. These problems include straightening out timetable conflicts and auditing diplomas. This process assures students that they will have the credits to graduate.

"It's a lot of fun. Graduation is my favourite time of year," says Cottrell.

Depending on the time of year, her work days are usually long, beginning in her office before 8 a.m. Peak times, such as the beginning and ending of an academic term, can leave her in her office after office hours, she says.

Cottrell has always worked in the education field. Although she intended to get into graphic arts, she started out at McMaster University in Hamilton as a library technician for about three years. She married and her career fell into place, she says with her employment at Niagara College beginning at the Welland campus.

As her experience grew as a registration assistant, the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake was slowly being built. When it opened, her position was offered there and she took it. Cottrell has been at the college for 16 years.

"The Glendale campus is gorgeous. It's nice to go for walks (on the campus grounds). If you're feeling the winter blues, it's a good spring pick-me-up," she says.

However, Cottrell says she doesn't favour one campus over the other. There are certain benefits to both, she explains.

"Working with the staff at the Welland campus for years, you miss the people you interact with on a daily basis."

Cottrell says she plans to continue her career here as a registration assistant. "It's a very versatile job with a lot of facets to it. It's nice when the students say thank you. Sometimes they'll even bring me coffee."

Although she'd like to take some time out to travel with her husband, perhaps to Greece, she wouldn't want to be in any other career, Cottrell says.

"Working with the grads, you get to see them graduate and get their diploma. It's a nice closure."

PARTY TIME
"TEMPLE CLUB!!!"
- SAMUEL FEELGOOD
PARTY TIME
the HEAT 90.1 fm
the HEAT 90.1 fm
HEY KIDS...DO YOU LIKE GETTING DRUNK!?1 DO YOU LIKE TO GET CRAZY!?! THEN COME PARTY WITH US CRAZY RADIO KIDS AT THE TEMPLE CLUB! IT'S THE GETTING OUT OF NIAGARA PARTY! $3 IN ADVANCE $4 AT THE DOOR.
WED. APRIL 18...BE THERE!!!

Reunion Time!
If you attended STAMFORD C.V.I. around 1979-81 then you won't want to miss...
...Stamford High School Reunion & Dance to be held JUNE 9, 2001.
For more information call:
(905) 354-2706

Reel Life

Seventh Player ought to steal your soul

By WILLIAM HORWOOD JR.
Staff Writer

Second-year students of the Broadcasting—Radio, Television and Film (BRTF) program are raising money for their "dark" and "twisted" production.

Seventh Player is the name of the 20-minute film made by second-year BRTF program students and starts production later in the month.

The students hope to earn about $500 by the end of the week, says Ed Smit, 22, of Kitchener, Ont., who works on the film on sets and lighting as a gaffer. The fund-raiser was a draw for a mystery package and a 50-50 draw.

The concept of the film is to win everything you ever wanted or lose your soul. Seventh Player stars Rob D'Ambrumeneil, 27, and Heather Laura Grey, both of Toronto. Auditions were held in Toronto and at Niagara College's Welland campus.

The $500 needed for the film doesn't include the cost of equipment or film, because the college supplies it. Not only are the actors working for free, but so also is Rene Simard, the creator of the soundtrack. Simard, of Sudbury, Ont., is making a soundtrack that will be "very dark and very spooky," says Eric Laakso, 20, of Sudbury, a second-year BRTF program student who wrote and will be directing the film.

First-term work on Seventh Player was pre-production work done to the script. The original draft took about two or three months, says Laakso. In second term the students are working on the production, a process that includes script enhancement, lighting plans, casting actors and filming. In the first term of the third year, Seventh Player will be in post-production for mixing music and editing sound.

The production is worth about 80 per cent of the term's marks but "it's not just about grades," says Laakso.

"If we do good on this film it opens doors," he says.

Laakso says he first knew he wanted to go into a program like the Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film program when he was in Grade 10 media class because of his love of telling a story.

The "twisted" script effectively mixes reality and fantasy, says Laakso.

"I like scripts that take you to another world and the world they (the actors) find is a dark one."

"I think it will be great when it (the filming) gets started," but the production needs some work, like more extras, says Graine Wightman, 24, a second-year BRTF program student from Toronto. Wightman is working on wardrobes, makeup and set dressing for the production.

> *'I like scripts that take you to another world and the world they (the actors) find is a dark one.'*
> *— Eric Laakso*

Wightman has a bachelor of arts in sociology from York University, yet likes the BRTF program because it is "a nice change." She will be able to use the sociology she has learned for writing documentaries, which is what she wants to do when she is finished school, says Wightman.

Seventh Player has lots of interesting locations and has evolved enormously, says Wightman. In a scene in Seventh Player a chair is dragged into the shadows: the consequences of losing the game, says Wightman.

When Seventh Player is done, it will be submitted to Telefest, along with other short films from across Canada and the winners will air on TVO.

Arrangements for a showing at the Welland campus next year are being worked on, says Wightman.

Arrival of baby alters life for college students

Second-year student credits girlfriend for keeping him focused on his school work

By RYAN JANZEN
Staff Writer

Many college and university students can focus their attention on completing their education, but in today's society some have the added responsibility of a child.

Molly Nicole Fidler-Rosts was born on Oct. 21, 2000 to parents Scott Rosts, 20, and girlfriend Stephanie Fidler, 20.

"It was the greatest day of my life to this point. I really didn't know what to say or do," says Rosts.

He says becoming a father is "the greatest feeling in the world."

He says everything wasn't always so great. He'll never forget the day when he found out Fidler was pregnant. "My immediate reaction was one of disappointment first. It was definitely a shock. After the news, we (he and Fidler) just went to the park and looked at the positives of the situation."

Rosts, a second-year student in the Journalism-Print program at Niagara College, says raising a child hasn't been as much work as he thought it would be. "It's a bit tough having to leave her (Molly) for a long day, but it hasn't been that tough."

He says the gifts and support he's received from family and friends have made it easier on him and his girlfriend.

Rosts says having a child hasn't affected his school work "at all." He says he still finds time to complete all assignments and dig up stories for the *Niagara News*. He says he credits his girlfriend for keeping him focused on his school work.

Rosts says he and Fidler plan to marry in four or five years, but since they are not now, living conditions are unusual. He says one week they live at his house (in St. Catharines), and the next week they live at Fidler's house (in Port Colborne).

> *'Day care gives Molly a chance to interact with other kids before she goes to kindergarten.'*

He says his girlfriend was a student in the Early Childhood Education program at Niagara College last year, but took the year off to stay home and look after their daughter. She will return to her program next year and they will put their daughter in the college's day care centre.

"Day care gives Molly a chance to interact with other kids before she goes to kindergarten."

Rosts says both sets of grandparents have been "really supportive. They have been great. They always lend a hand in some way, whether it is watching Molly or coming home with a present for her. They've been wonderful. What can we complain about? They let us live at home for free."

Rosts says he was worried about telling them about the pregnancy, but when he did, they took it well.

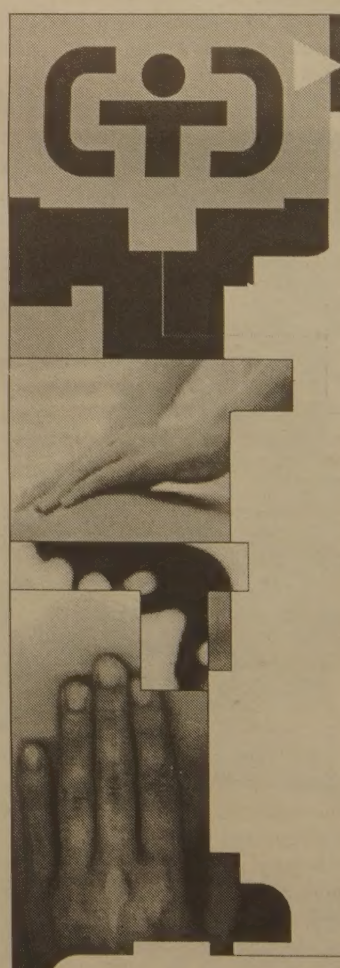
Rosts and Fidler earn money to support their daughter. Rosts says he works between 15 to 20 hours a week at Pioneer Gas Station in St. Catharines making $7.15 an hour. Fidler makes $125 a week babysitting her two infant cousins. He says they have enough money to get by, but they are on a budget. If there is any extra money, Rosts says "it's fun to buy lots to spoil her."

> *'It was the greatest day of my life to this point. I really didn't know what to say or do.'*

Rosts says there isn't anything about his life that he would change. He says having a child has made him "a lot more mature and responsible. It's led me to need a job after I'm out of school, but I don't know if I'll get one. It's kicked in a sense of reality and made me more aware of my future." Spending less time with friends and going out less often are things that he misses most, says Rosts.

Although Rosts says having a child while attending school has been easier than he thought, he would "recommend people take more precautions in their relationships."

Don't Be *Pushed* into Abortion
TAKE CONTROL . . .
CHOOSE LIFE
Your complete resource centre on Pro-Life
• Books • Audio Tapes & Presentation Kits avail.
• Videos • Brochures
St. Catharines RIGHT TO LIFE Inc.
110 Geneva St., St. Catharines 684-7505



Canadian Therapeutic College
Become a
Registered Massage Therapist
and join one of the fastest growing health care professions.
Registered Massage Therapists are enjoying exciting careers, working in: Private Practices, Hospitals and Rehabilitation Centres.
Take hold of your future by becoming a
Sports Injury Therapist
Canadian Therapeutic College
offers a 3yr. Sports Injury Therapy program that produces a specialized manual therapist.
A Sports Injury Therapist and is multi-disciplined, in demand and ready to work:
• with Elite Athletes • with Sports Teams
• in Rehabilitation Centres • in Private Practices
• in Fitness Institutes • in Chiropractic Clinics
Call ▶ 905.632.3200
Toll Free ▶ 1.877.278.8888
Call today for our FREE Brochure or visit us for an informative consultation. Now accepting applications for fall 2001. Financial Assistance available if eligible.
760 Brant St. Burlington Email: ctcmassage@netaccess.on.ca Website: www.canadiantherapeuticcollege.com

TEACHERS@NIAGARA

Professor makes high-speed connection

By MELISSA PILON
Staff Writer

Keeping the production of the *Niagara News* on the cutting edge of technology may be difficult, but Paul Dayboll says his job "doesn't even seem like work."

Dayboll, 41, of Port Colborne, teaches a variety of courses in the Journalism-Print and the Public Relations (Post-graduate) programs.

Dayboll says he teaches Macintosh technology, desktop publishing (DTP) and a variety of computer programs so the students "feel comfortable approaching the different technologies that are out there." In the past, Dayboll has taught in the Interactive Multimedia (Post-graduate) and the Art and Design Fundamentals—Graphic Design Production programs.

Dayboll says his responsibility, as a professor, is a straightforward one. "I think my job is to give the students the best education and knowledge they need to perform the job they're looking for."

'If I work hard enough it becomes a great experience and that's one of the things I like.'
— Paul Dayboll

Before becoming a professor here, Dayboll had his own DTP/printing company, and had worked for Rannie Newspapers as a composing room manager. Dayboll is a certified Apple technician and has acquired 10 certificates. He started his own business eight years ago, called CanTrack Software Inc., writing customized databases for newspapers. His past careers have helped him as a professor, says Dayboll.

"It's a funny thing because you go out thinking 'I'm going to be this' and then all of a sudden 15, 20 years from now, you're something totally different; yet you'll find out that some of the first things you learned actually help in the future."

Dayboll says he first became involved with the college "far before" he began teaching. "When Phyllis Barnatt (co-ordinator and instructor of the Journalism-Print program) first came to the college I helped to do the changeover to laser printers." He says he enjoyed being around the college and working with Gary Erb, professor of the Journalism-Print program and Barnatt. When the opportunity to teach arose, he took it.

"The teacher before me in the Mac Lab became ill, and they needed a fast replacement to come in and take over the course, so I came in and taught." When the job was posted for full time Dayboll applied for the position.

Dayboll says there were various reasons. "I took the job because it was a good steady job with a steady income. The other thing I really like about it is working with the students." He says he enjoys being able to have a job at which he can walk in a room and teach others about what he likes to do.

There are many benefits to his job as a professor compared to working in the newspaper industry, says Dayboll. "I have a little more leeway. Although I have to make it to class on time and I have to teach, I can set my own agenda in those classes."

Dayboll says within the constraints of what needs to be taught he can be "inventive" in the way he teaches. "I can make it a great experience for the students. If I work hard enough, it becomes a great experience and that's one of the things I like."

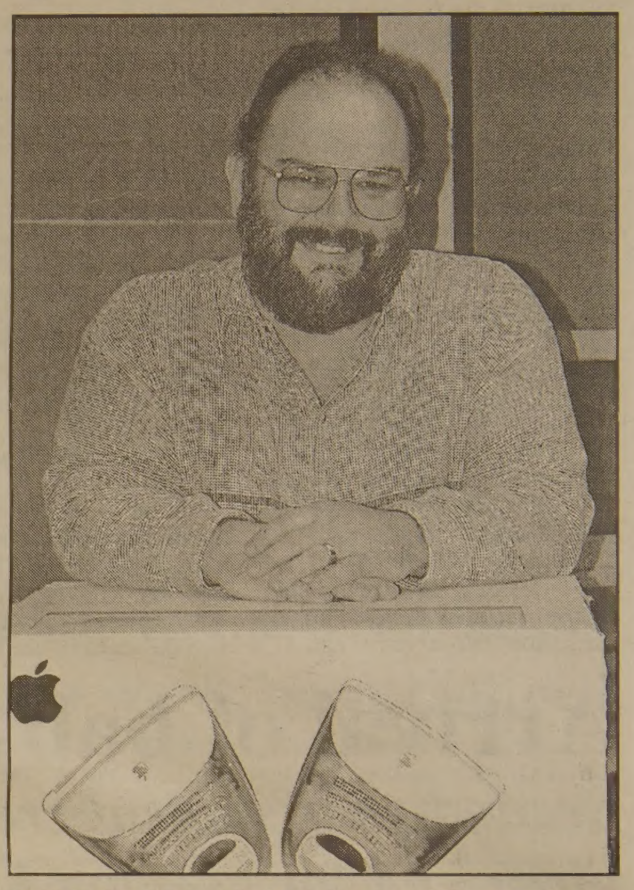
Dayboll says that another benefit is the time off during the summer. "It's a great thing, I can't deny that. I really enjoy the time off." The industry, says Dayboll, can be "a nice, fast-paced world," but the excitement wears off quickly, can be taxing and people tend to burn out.

"I think people start to look for more out of a job, and being able to teach the students is more out of my job for me."

The only down side to his job is the marking because in the industry "either it's wrong or right with no in between," says Dayboll. "Marking is tedious. It's the one thing that really got to me about the job. You'd look at something and say 'I don't know. Does it look like a 70 or an 80 (per cent)?' It took me a long time to catch on to that."

Dayboll says some students can be less computer-oriented than others. "If all I can do for that student is at least make them comfortable to sit in front of the computer and help them do their job to the best of their ability, that's all I can do for them. I can't make people what they are not." On the other hand, Dayboll says, some students who have fears or bad experiences with computers turn out to be some of the "best" computer people. "It's just really nice to see them catch on."

The satisfaction of his job comes with the end result, says Dayboll. "I was out at a newspaper, walking through one of the rooms when all of a sudden I looked down at a table and there was one of my former students sitting there working and I thought 'geez, it actually works.' The most rewarding is when you hear of a student working and using some of the knowledge you gave them."



Paul Dayboll is excited to see new iMacs coming to the Mac Lab.

— Niagara News Archive

Common view of online learning misinformed

By MELISSA PILON
Staff Writer

Online education is "something we will be seeing more and more of," says Niagara College President Dan Patterson.

Brian Keppy, 50, a professor at Niagara College, who is involved with online education, says a lot of people think online learning entails doing everything on the Internet. "Online education, or distance education, removes learning from being location based and being time based."

Keppy teaches Modern History, Current Events, Western Civilization, Introduction to Politics, and History of Niagara at the college and uses online tools to improve the format of his teaching.

Keppy says online education provides alternative formats of learning. It can be a supplement to traditional classes or can go beyond, to a full-time online experience, where everything is online and students don't have to come to a physical classroom.

'This college is definitely making sure it stays tuned to the changing nature of electronic learning.'
— Dan Patterson

"Students can generally, 24 hours a day, log on, do their work, present their material, and when they are ready, do their tests."

Keppy says some people may be afraid there are many things that can't be done online, because it's such a new idea and all the possibilities haven't been explained. In most courses there is a combination of practical application and acquisition of fact. The application of these facts is still done practically, but the classroom material can be taught online.

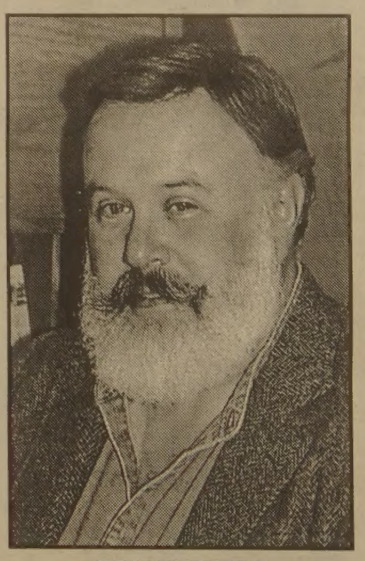
An issue with online education is the concern there can be no face-to-face interaction.

Dalton Clarke, a school board trustee from St. Catharines, says there is a need for balance and face-to-face relationships developed within the classroom are important.

"It's a matter of balance. The online experience will get you more information than you will ever get in a single classroom, but you won't get the interpersonal skills that you get from being in the classroom and interacting with somebody."

Keppy says he can see the importance of the physical face-to-face interaction in a classroom dwindling because there are other options. "I'm getting more and more interested in video. One of the problems with video is that a number of the students don't have it," adding the rapid decline in prices for this kind of technology makes this venture "feasible. I would love, instead of a textbook, to be able to say to my students go and spend the 50 bucks on a video camera."

The majority of the college's future programs will need some face-to-face interaction between students and teachers in the classroom, says Patterson, adding the "dynamic process" of face-to-face interaction is needed because "it's dialogue and it's live."



BRIAN KEPPY

– File Photo

Keppy says he believes the quality of teaching would improve if online education techniques were integrated into the classroom. "To teach in colleges and in universities, in general, you don't have to really know anything about teaching. There are some absolutely wonderful teachers in colleges and universities, but it's not a requirement of the job. We're looking for people with expertise in an area, and we're looking for their expertise."

Keppy says that online education offers teachers methods of teaching in an effective way. "I think a lot of people would take advantage of it and make their classes much richer."

Steevie Mussel, 20, a student at Niagara College in the General Arts and Sciences program, says her Current Events course, which has an online supplement is "very straightforward and convenient. I like it because it's always accessible." The face-to-face interaction is preferred, says Mussel. "I need that interaction. I need someone guiding me and to tell me what I have done, and if it's right or wrong."

Mussel says if she had the opportunity to take a full-time online course, she would, but would need to have a computer at home. "If the (teacher/student) interaction is there, if that teacher e-mailed the students, if there is someway to interact with the teacher at some point, then, yes, I would."

Mussel says she is going to Brock University in St. Catharines this September and will take an online course if there's an opportunity.

Patterson says goals have been set for the college because of the impact technology has on learning. One of the goals is to increase online learning to 15 per cent in the next four years.

To improve online services for students, the Ontario college system has established a task force called Electronic College of Applied Arts and Technology.

'I would love, instead of a textbook, to be able to say to my students go and spend the 50 bucks on a video camera.'
— Brian Keppy

"It's a trend for the future, so we need to do more professional development to get our faculty the best professional training so they can adapt their programs."

Niagara College is working with other colleges and developing synergies with them, says Patterson, adding, "It's an area that's starting to become very important as we structure our programs and services for the future."

Patterson says he believes colleges are at the pioneer days of online education. "We're all trying to figure out how to place ourselves in this horizon of technology and how to optimize the resources that we have for online learning for our students. This college is definitely making sure it stays tuned to the changing nature of electronic learning."

TECHNOLOGY@NIAGARA

PeopleSoft boosts efficiency levels, VP says

By JASON ROMANIUK
Staff Writer

Niagara College is preparing for the launch of an information system that will bring the college's infrastructure to a level of "higher efficiency."

PeopleSoft, a software program that will integrate three systems into one, has been a long time coming.

The current three systems in use — student administration, human resources and financial management — were put into effect more than 15 years ago and were last updated in 1991.

The $2.9-million investment is not a new idea. "We've been planning this for five years," says Nicole Perreault, manager of human resources and project leader for the human resources information system.

Perreault has been with the college for 61/2 years and says she can appreciate the technological advancement. "It will give the college a higher efficiency level," says Perreault. "It is very user friendly."

She says the new system will make an impact in a variety of areas. Payroll will be completed over the system by the college, instead of using the Royal Bank of Canada to issue cheques. Finance will have an integrated budget, billing and fixed assets. Even the look of the system will be totally redesigned. It will feature a Windows/Web look that will include a shopping basket, e-wallet and individual portal concepts.

Perreault says one of the key advantages of the system is the easy accessibility for faculty and students.

"I'm really looking forward to it (PeopleSoft). It will give students a feeling of more control," says Chris Beckwith, a first-year Law and Security Administration program student.

Beckwith says he has been frustrated with the lack of information he and his fellow students could get access to this year with the current program.

Through PeopleSoft, students will be able to complete a variety of tasks. From any Internet accessible computer, the system will allow students to do the following:

- apply for admission
- view a class schedule
- register for classes
- add or drop classes
- change biographical and demographic information
- e-mail instructors
- check their financial accounts
- schedule appointments with counsellors
- obtain grades.

PeopleSoft will make its debut in the human resources department on April 16, with restructured payroll starting April 24 for full-time employees and May 4 for part-time employees.

The anticipation can be seen at all levels of the college.

"It's (PeopleSoft) the best software we could obtain right now," says Niagara College President Dan Patterson."PeopleSoft is known as a leader in its field."

Patterson says he has been a supporter from the beginning and is optimistic it will make student life easier at Niagara College.

Bonnie Rose, vice-president academic, says the college has made the right choice in implementing the program. "PeopleSoft will position us to have a 21st-century information infrastructure."

Like every major change in the college, Rose says there will need to be time for adjustment. "It will have a steep learning curve, and it's a very big change for the college," Rose says, adding that future orientations will include an introduction to the PeopleSoft system.

The system will continue to be implemented into different departments through August.

Grad feels 'really great' about his diploma

By VALERIE PAQUETTE
Staff Writer

It's all about late-night cramming, homework overload, stress, money problems, coffee, coffee and more coffee. Sound familiar?

Most college students know this lifestyle all too well as they work hard to achieve success.

Ryan Bellinger, 23, a Niagara College graduate of the Computer Programmer program, says all the hard work does pay off because you feel "really great" when you finish and get your diploma.

Bellinger moved to Welland to attend Niagara in the fall of 1998 from the small town of Collingwood, Ont.

Graduating in 2000, Bellinger says he did fairly well in school. "I got some 60s and I got some 90s. I didn't find my program that difficult. I did gain a lot of knowledge though. The teachers were very helpful, intelligent and always approachable."

Bellinger says he was a big procrastinator. "I would always wait until the last minute for everything and be up all hours. Thank God for coffee."

In high school, Bellinger says, he would study 10 minutes before a test. "I would always do good on tests. I am just lucky because I am good under pressure but I wouldn't recommend it to others."

Asked what advice he'd give to students, Bellinger says, "Make it memorable and worth your while. I encourage people to go but only if they plan on sticking with it. Don't just go to party. If you need help at all, talk to one of the counsellors. They are always there to help."

Besides school, Bellinger says, he would have a lot of gatherings. "There was always people over at our place watching movies, playing Playstation and, of course, partying." He added he would "often" go to the Venice Café and Ristorante across from the college to hang out.

Bellinger says he enjoys playing soccer and ice hockey and has played for many years. "Soccer rocks. I wish that Niagara College had had a soccer team." Unfortunately, there wasn't enough money in the sports budget for a soccer team so, Bellinger says, he played hockey once a week.

He says his parents were always supportive of him going to college, both psychologically and financially. "I really didn't get much from OSAP (Ontario Student Assistance Program) so I had to take out a line of credit through the bank. My parents helped me a lot with school expenses because they really wanted me to do my best."

Bellinger works in Ottawa at Compaq Canada as a technical support specialist. He works Monday to Friday from 6 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. and makes $14 an hour.

Bellinger has worked there for more than three months providing technical support for Compaq computers over the phone.

"I troubleshoot computer systems over the phone. (There's) not much to it. People call in with their problem and I try and help to fix it. I run into the odd hard question but generally it's pretty easy."

He says his shifts aren't bad. "I have weekends off, which is a bonus. It could be worse. I would prefer to work Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., though."

As for how he enjoys his job, Bellinger says, "It's a really good atmosphere. The people are great to work with, but as for the job itself, it's just a stepping-stone."

Bellinger says he hopes to eventually get a government job involving computers. "I am not sure what job yet exactly, but I know government jobs pay very well and I will be looking more into it."

Asked if college has helped him in his field, Bellinger says, "College has prepared me well for what I am doing now and in my future success in the workforce."

Students, SWAT annoying computer problems away

By JENNIFER PHILLIPS
Staff Writer

They have an unusal name but they are there to help students with computer problems at Niagara College.

Joe Brown, 21, of Pelham, is a first-year student in the Computer Programmer/Analyst (Co-op) program at the Welland campus. He is in his second term.

Brown works as one of the Students Who Advance Technology (SWAT) in the student open access lab in the Simcoe building (S109) at the Welland campus. The lab is open for students from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Students can access the lab on the weekend with a pass.

"I heard about the job from a friend and applied online," Brown says. He has been working there since "the end of the first semester."

He says the only qualifications he needed were knowledge and an interest in computers.

Brown says he is "very busy" managing two jobs and going to school. He works at NuComm, a call centre in St. Catharines.

He says he has worked there for three years, gets 24 hours a week and likes the job because he receives benefits.

Brown says he gets between seven and 12 hours a week at the school in the computer lab. "Luckily, I get a chance to do homework at work in the lab sometimes."

He says he really likes his job at school because he is able to interact with others, something he does not do much of at his other job.

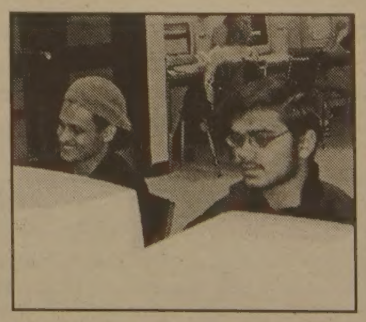
He says he has "no complaints about the job" in the computer lab. His duties include making sure the computer equipment is ready for students, for example, "making sure the printer has ink."

He says he is there to assist students if they are "having difficulties" or need any assistance within the computer lab.

Brown says he needs both jobs to make money for tuition, car payments, cell telephone payments and payment to use the Internet.

He says he likes to have extra money for entertainment. He enjoys sports and computer games. "I like games that make you think, rather than just run around and shoot people."

He says a job in the computer lab is perfect for him because he is able to make extra cash while going to school and doing something he enjoys.



Niagara College students Mohamed Ali Mao (left) and Mohammad Faisal Ali spend an afternoon working in SWAT's open access lab.

Photo by Brad Demers

Non-fatal building fire confined to first floor

Continued from page 1

As of press time, no official cause or damage estimate have been determined.

At the scene, Mal Woodhouse, director of facilities management, said, "All of the proper procedures were implemented."

The fire was limited to the non-smoking first floor of the campus residence.

Students were allowed back into the residence at 10 a.m.

Woodhouse said the students were kept out of the building as fire officials checked the air quality inside the building until it was "at an acceptable level."

The residence is owned and operated by Campus Living Centres Inc. of Kingston, Ont.

Many students were unhappy with the handling of the situation. "In a situation where we need them," said student Camille Holder, 20, of Toronto, "they just [mess] up. That's irresponsible."

Rob Robinson, 20, of Brampton, said, "The key factor was there was too many people left behind. They weren't making any efforts to get people out of their rooms."

Darrell Neufeld, executive assistant to Niagara College President Dan Patterson, said, "This is a terrible incident for everyone at the college."

"Our thoughts at the moment are for Dustin," said Neufeld.

Emergency personnel responded to a first-floor fire at the Glendale residence.

Photo by Mike Van Kooten

EDITORIAL

The Niagara News is a practical lab for the Journalism-Print program, covering the college community and other areas of interest.
Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the management of the Niagara News or the administration of
Niagara College. P.O. Box 1005, Room S212, 300 Woodlawn Rd., Welland, Ont. L3B 5S2
Phone (905) 735-2211 / 641-2252 / 374-7454 / FAX (905) 736-6003
Editor: Brad Demers; **Associate Editor:** Laura Lennie; **Assistant Editor:** Mike Van Kooten;
Publisher: Leo Tiberi, director, Communications and Information Technology;
Editor-in-Chief: Stu Black, project manager, New Media Development;
Managing Editor: Phyllis Barnatt, co-ordinator, Journalism-Print program;
Associate Managing Editor: Gary Erb, professor, Journalism-Print program;
Editorial Consultant: Nancy Geddie, professor, Journalism-Print program;
Advertising Professor: Linda Camus;
Advertising-Account Manager: VBS Advertising, Ron Crowley;
Advertising Design: Ron Crowley;
Photography Consultant: Jhim Burwell, photography instructor;
Photography Editor: Sean F. Taylor;
Film Processing: Stephanie Hull; Sarah Campbell;
Contact Sheets: Christene Wilde; Rebecca Marchildon;
Scanning Crew: W. Colin Gibson; Dusty Jackson.
www.niagara-news.com

Y'know, grammar, it's like . . . whatever

In a recent episode of Open Mike with Mike Bullard, a caller to the show's "What's bothering you?" segment complained about the misuse of the contraction "you're" and the pronoun "your."

The caller said if people simply took a few minutes to learn the rules, they wouldn't make the same mistakes in the future.

Unfortunately, the complaint probably fell on deaf ears — the audience was less than receptive, and Bullard cut the caller off after a few minutes. The caller did, however, win a toaster oven.

Why should students bother learning the differences between you're and your? Their, they're and there? Loose versus lose? Its or it's? Everyday . . . or every day?

The misuse of language is common throughout society, but I feel that this misuse has reached new heights with the introduction of the Internet. Think of it — how often have you received e-mail from someone with many obvious spelling mistakes and grammatical errors?

It would be seen as rude if you pointed these errors out, and in the most part (with a little puzzling) the meaning of the letter can be figured out. Sentences are punctuated by interjections such as "y'know" and "it's, like." Slang and jargon pepper everyday conversations but, in the end, everyone usually understands one another.

I don't think it's necessary for everyone to know what a gerund is. Even the misuse of "good" and "well" is acceptable to almost everyone (except grammar teachers); however, the easy-to-remember rules should be reinforced.

Its a battle I no we can win. Everyday we can teach our childrens they're grammar and, if taut good, they will excell in school. Of this I have know doubt.

Just don't loose you're mind in the meantime.

Brad Demers

Your life, your future, your decision

One life ends as another begins for high school students entering post-secondary education.

As these students embark on what may be a life-changing experience, they will encounter unfamiliar territory. At the beginning of their post-secondary career, high school seniors will once again be delegated to freshman status. The four years, which are designed to prepare high school students for the "real thing," do little to ease the anxiety and confusion students feel when faced with the "big decision."

One of the most important of these decisions students will make after completing high school is whether to attend university or college.

So, here's the issue.

It's about high school guidance counsellors not being aware of the advantages of a community college education. In high school, no one really talks about going to college or even presents college as an equal option for further education.

There is a misconception that one is a better or more prestigious choice than the other. It's not clear where this misunderstanding stems from; however, there are some people who instil the notion that those who are "intelligent" are the product of a university education.

In terms of social status, a college education is considered to be an alternative choice for those who are "unable" to succeed in university. College and university are on an equal level academically, but the curriculum is different. University is based on theory and general knowledge, whereas college provides a more hands-on and practical approach to learning.

University and college have their advantages and disadvantages, so students should make their decisions based on personal preferences.

High school students need more information and guidance about furthering their education in order for them to make the best decision for themselves.

Students come in different shapes, sizes and interests; therefore, they should have the option to explore all directions and should be properly informed about their options.

Choosing the direction in which you are going to go in your life is just that: your life, your decision.

Laura Lennie

Journalism-Print students welcome media convergence

The print industry has seen many revolutions throughout history. Moveable type, steam press engines, and computers have made newspapers more efficient and affordable for the everyday consumer.

Today, a new revolution is on the horizon — convergence. This buzzword is greeted with skepticism by some and with open arms by others. What consequences this marriage of print, television and radio will have on the newspaper industry have yet to be seen.

Many newspapers, such as those in the Southam Newspaper group, have been bought by television conglomerates (in Southam's case, they were bought by CanWest Global). The Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film (BRTF) program and the Journalism-Print program have offered shared courses for five years — ahead of the convergence.

As a new team of students takes over the production of the *Niagara News*, we look forward to experiencing the coming changes in the media.

Brad Demers, Laura Lennie, Mike Van Kooten

Your voice or opinion is welcome in our Letters to the Editor section. Our policy regarding letter submissions is this: All letters must be received on the Friday one week prior to publication. Each letter must include the writer's name, college identification number and program of study.
All letters must be signed and include a day and evening telephone number for verification use only.
All letters can be mailed or brought to the Niagara News newsroom, Room S212, Simcoe Building, Welland Campus.

ADVERTISING RULES: The advertiser agrees that the publisher shall not be liable for damages arising out of errors in advertisements beyond the amount paid for the space actually occupied by the portion of the advertisement in which the error occurred. This applies whether such error is due to the negligence of its servants or otherwise.
There shall be no liability for non-insertions of any advertisement beyond the amount paid for such advertisement.
All advertisers are asked to check their advertisements after first insertion. We accept responsibility for only one incorrect insertion unless notified immediately after publication. Errors, which do not lessen the value of the advertisement, are not eligible for corrections by a make-good advertisement. There shall be no liability for non-insertion of any advertisement beyond the amount paid for such advertisement. We reserve the right to edit, revise, classify or reject any advertisement.

Niagara College Journalism - Print "Best of Year Two" Photography Contest

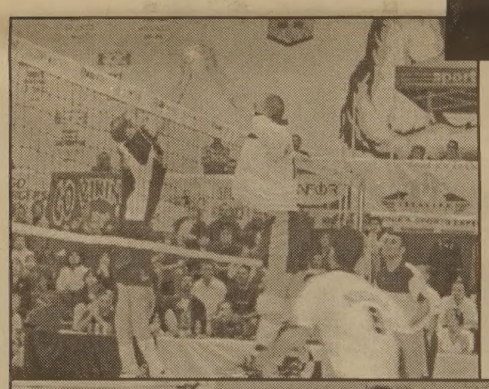
By NIAGARA NEWS STAFF

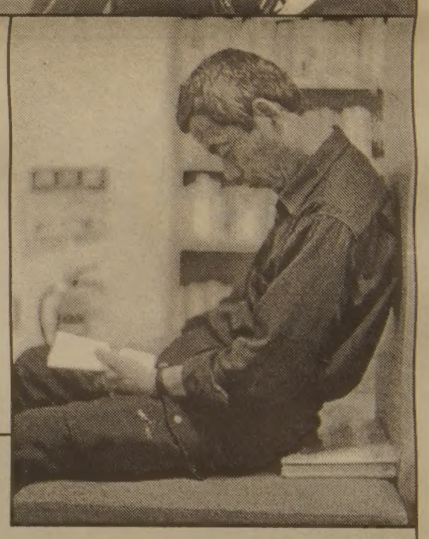
On March 21 the Niagara College Journalism-Print program saw its students' top imagery put in the spotlight.

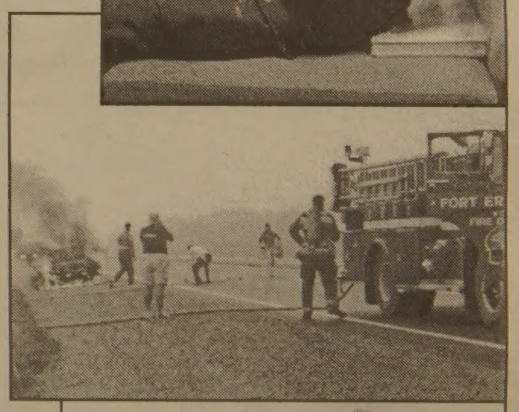
Submissions for the eighth annual "Best of Year 2" Photography Contest were gathered from the students' working portfolios. They were judged by Journalism-Print program Advisory Committee members Gary Manning, the managing editor of the Welland Tribune and Doug Firby, the managing editor of the St. Catharines Standard. Joining Manning and Firby at the judging table were Niagara College President Dan Patterson, his wife, Saundra, and Stu Black, product manager New Media Development at Niagara College. Journalism-Print program faculty did not participate in the vote.

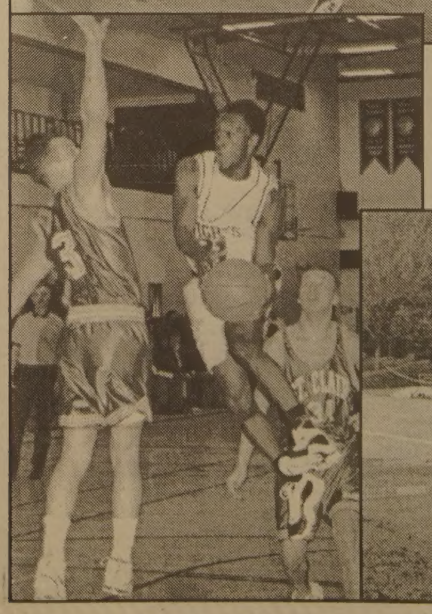
Special thanks to Rob Bagliolid of Bell Arte Camera in Hamilton, Will Holowka of Kodak Canada, Jan Armour of Nikon Canada, former managing editor of the Welland Tribune and advisory committee member Jim Middleton, Firby and the Standard, Manning and the Tribune, Michael Brown and the Niagara Falls Review, Carolyn Mullin and the Voice of Pelham, Tammie Ferrell of Zehrs Welland and Stu Black for donating prizes for the photography contest.

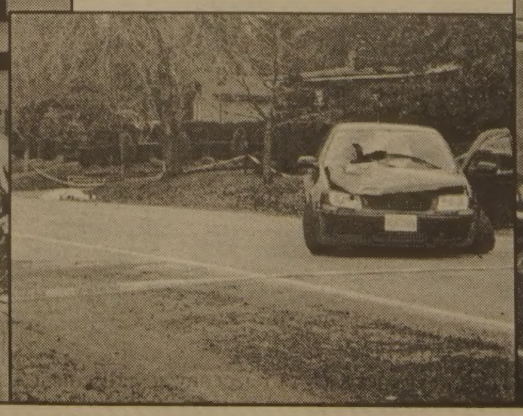
Last Year's Winners











Photos (clockwise from the ice scupture)

Sam Bayly and **Tara Purpura** who tied for second place in Human Interest,

Leigh Beihl and **Natsuko Tamura** who tied for third place in Human Interest,

Tara Purpura first place News,

Jamie MacIntosh first place Sports,

Penni Lafleur third place News,

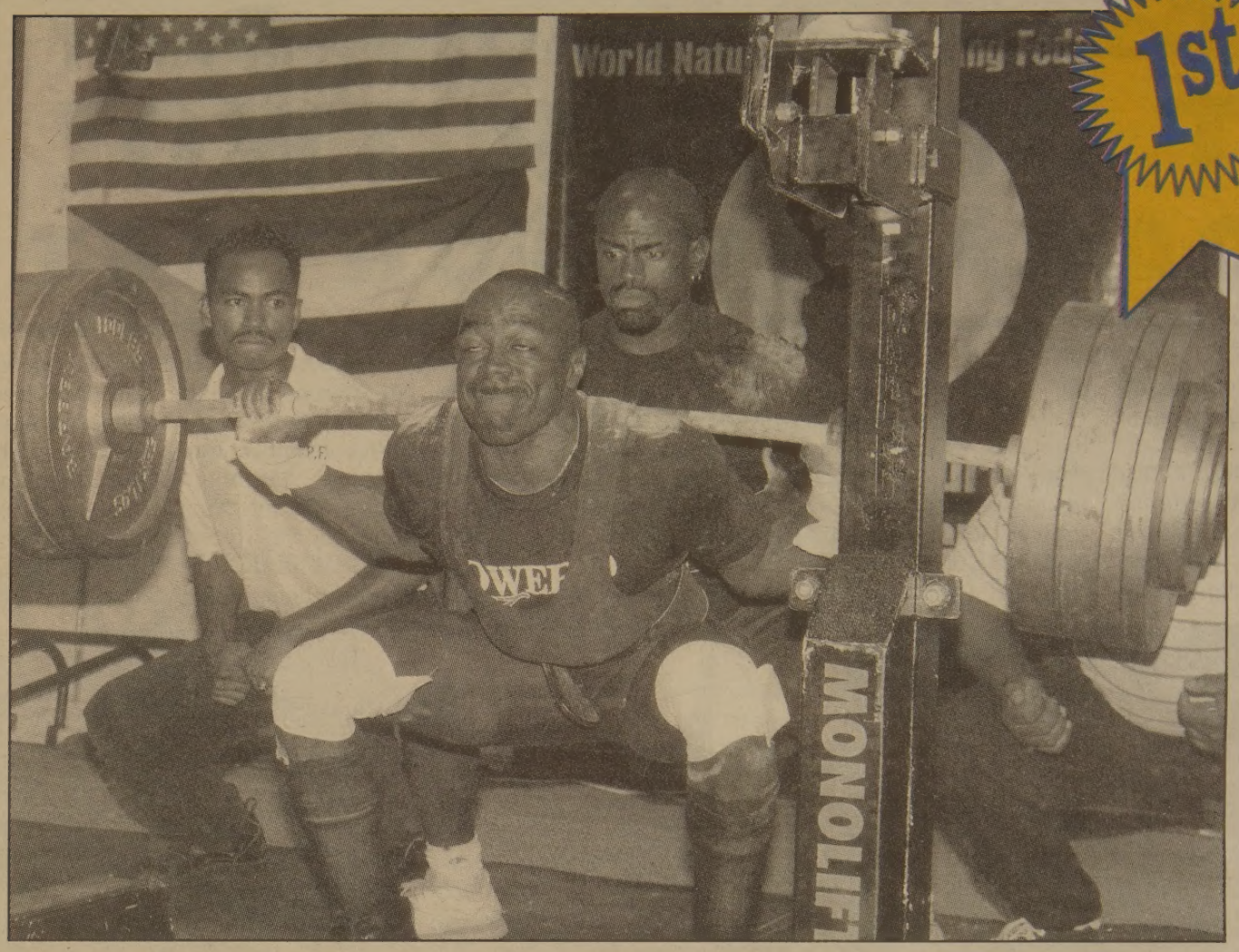
Penni Lafleur second place News,

Mike Wencel second place Sports,

Robert Lapensée and **Jason Vizbulis** who tied for third place in Sports.

"The Boy at the Fence" by **John Robbins** won first place in Human Interest and Best of Show.

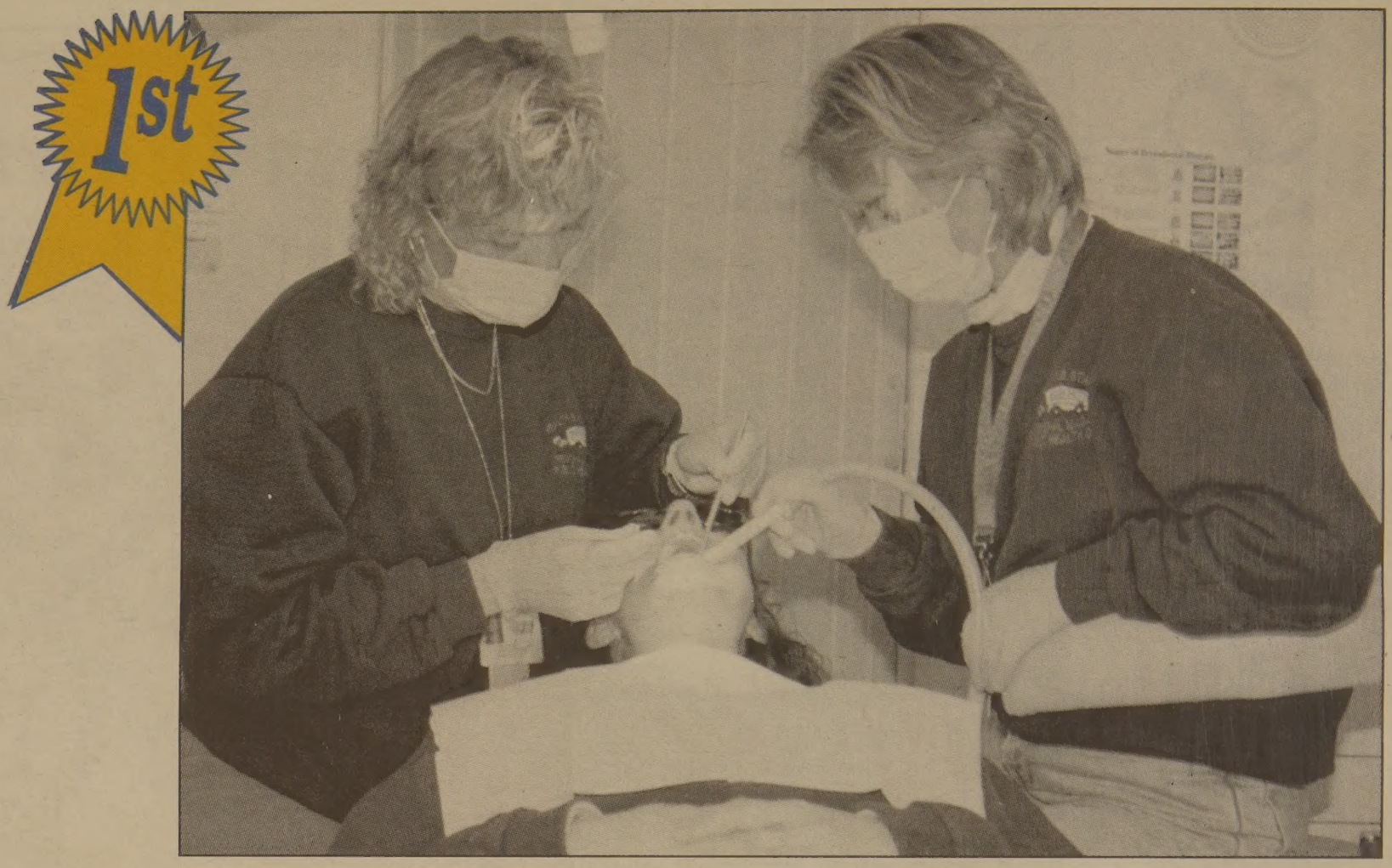
Sports



Best in Show and First Place Sports -
Laura T. Ricciuto

Second Place Sports -
Ryan McLaughlin

Third Place Sports -
Dan D'Amico



First Place Human Interest -
Paul Finelli

Second Place Human Interest -
Kevin Hartford

Third Place Human Interest (tie) -
both by **Laura T. Ricciuto**

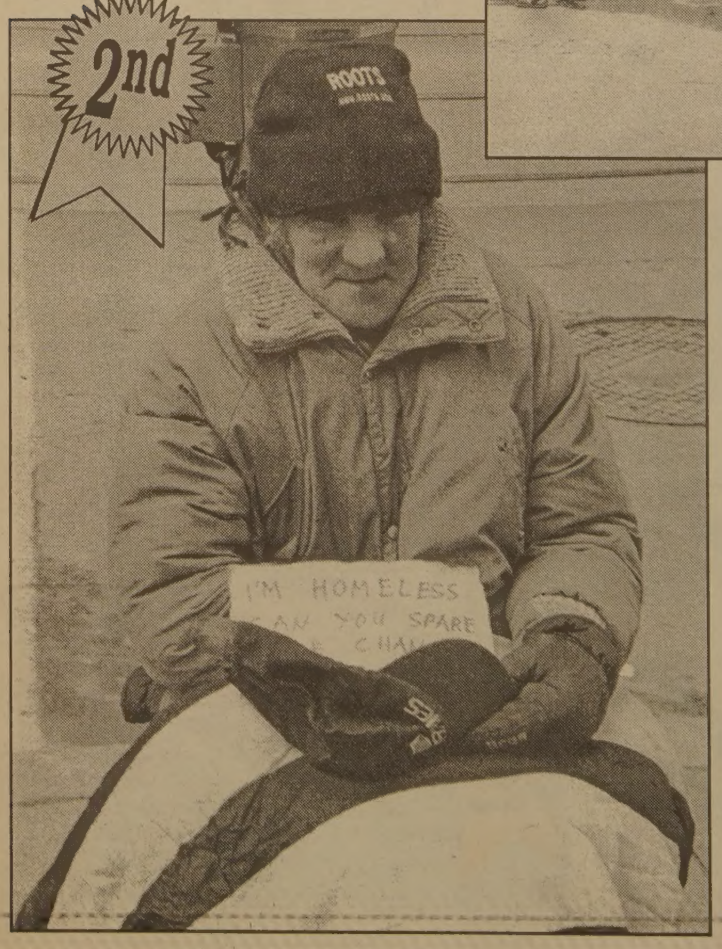
Human Interest

The News

First Place News -
Laura T. Ricciuto

Second Place News (tie) -
"Flooding" by **Tara Ford**
and "Homeless in TO" by
Collin Coulis

Third Place News -
Jennifer Chornley



PERSONALITIES

Renwald returns to where it began

By REBECCA MARCHILDON
Staff Writer

Kathy Renwald recently returned to Niagara College after more than 30 years.

Renwald, the on-air host of two programs on the Home and Garden Television Network (HGTV), spoke to students about her journey to success and offered advice based on her many experiences.

Renwald graduated from the college's Journalism-Print program about 30 years ago.

Renwald, of Hamilton, through Edmonton-based Lone Pine Publishing, has just published Perennials for Ontario and Annuals for Ontario, two books she co-authored with Alison Beck, a graduate from the college's Horticulture program. Her latest book, Tree and Shrub Gardening for Ontario, will be released in April.

Her television programs on HGTV are called The Gardener's Journal and a live phone-in show, Calling All Gardeners. She has written for magazines such as *Better Homes and Gardens*.

Renwald had two speaking engagements at the college on March 23, first with students in the Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film program and with first-year students of the Journalism-Print program.

'Television can be very rewarding because it's such a strong partnership between words and pictures.'
— Kathy Renwald

Renwald started by saying that after she graduated from Niagara she took her placement in radio but "can't remember why."

"One of the good things in that (being at a small radio station) was you got exposed to things, you got to do things."

Renwald advised students to take their placement with a "smaller" company. She said it would be "good experience" because "they really want you to work."

"At bigger places you are restricted in what you can do. You'd never get the exposure you would in a smaller place."

After her placement, Renwald was hired at CKOC, a radio station in Hamilton. She said she worked "split shifts six days a week" until she was fired for being thought to want to start a union.

Renwald was then hired at CHCH television (in Hamilton) as a news reporter. She said she would do her news reports but would then cover sporting events on her own time. Renwald said she eventually went to her news director and said, "I think you need a sports reporter."

Renwald said the director disagreed with her, so she went to the vice-president, Dick Beddoes, with the same proposal. He hired her as the new sportscaster.

"It was an ideal situation for me," said Renwald.

She said she loved working with Beddoes because he "always emphasized skills as a reporter, skills in writing and said to write vividly." Renwald said she learned "strong and valuable skills in writing and reporting" from Beddoes.

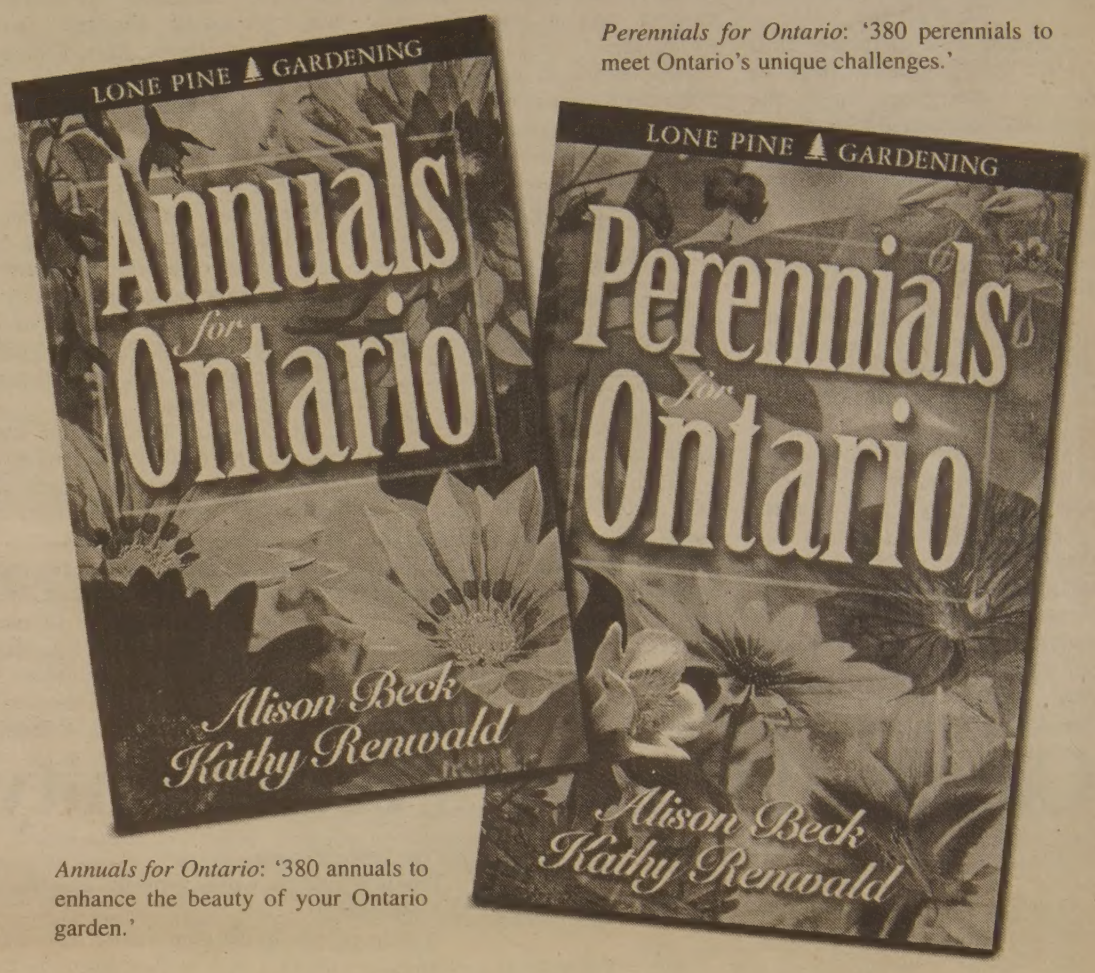
"It was an exciting time that helped to shape my career."

Renwald said working with television taught her to "get to the point and write tightly and concisely" because reporters could spend no more than three minutes on a story.

"You quickly learn to be fast and efficient."

Renwald said working in broadcast versus print is "not such a solo pursuit because other people play a role in your final product."

"That's the hard part about television writing. You have to write something complementary to what's on screen. Television can be very rewarding because it's such a strong partnership between words and pictures."



Perennials for Ontario: '380 perennials to meet Ontario's unique challenges.'

Annuals for Ontario: '380 annuals to enhance the beauty of your Ontario garden.'

Renwald said she eventually went to her news director and said, "I think you need a sports reporter."

Renwald said the director disagreed with her, so she went to the vice-president, Dick Beddoes, with the same proposal. He hired her as the new sportscaster.

"It was an ideal situation for me," said Renwald.

She said she loved working with Beddoes because he "always emphasized skills as a reporter, skills in writing and said to write vividly." Renwald said she learned "strong and valuable skills in writing and reporting" from Beddoes.

"It was an exciting time that helped to shape my career."

Renwald said working with television taught her to "get to the point and write tightly and concisely" because reporters could spend no more than three minutes on a story.

"You quickly learn to be fast and efficient."

Renwald said working in broadcast versus print is "not such a solo pursuit because other people play a role in your final product."

"That's the hard part about television writing. You have to write what's on screen. Television can be very rewarding because it's such a strong partnership between words and pictures."

Renwald said her change from sports reporting to nature and agricultural reporting was caused by her love of the outdoors. She said she "liked being outside" where "the pictures were compelling."

In 1990, she started a 30-minute gardening show on CHCH. She worked 20 hours a week on the show and 40 hours a week as a regular reporter.

In 1997, Renwald left CHCH and sold the show to HGTV. She said she didn't like being unionized and "wanted more freedom."

"I was tired of the constraints and decided to leave," although Renwald said it wasn't easy to leave because the network owned the show.

"Eventually, I got ownership and they (CHCH) got a percentage of the profits."

Renwald is the producer, researcher, host and writer of the program, but said she would "one day like to find someone to produce it" because she "already has a lot of things to think about."

The Gardener's Journal, about to enter its 11th season, airs in the United States, Canada, Britain and Japan.

Renwald said she's "resisted" creating a Web site for the show because it means "more work, no pay" but she might have "a small one" in the fall.

"I just don't want to spend my life behind a computer."

After about 45 minutes of talking about her rise to success, Renwald told students they have "to get something unique out of people" and be "open to things and curious" in order to be good reporters.

To conclude her visit to the college, Renwald answered any questions students had. Asked why she loves working with gardens, she answered, "I love that it's all controlled by nature, that we don't have the final say."

Russia, Germany learn from prof's passion for dentistry

By ROB LUCIANI
Staff Writer

If there is a word that best describes Ursula Pelissero, 51, energetic would be one of the best.

A faculty of dentistry and clinical instructor at Niagara College, Pelissero, of Grimsby, Ont., has been working here for five years and says she has enjoyed her time at the Welland campus. Her title is didactic and clinical instructor in the Dental Hygiene program and Preventive Dental Assisting program.

"I truly love my job," says Pelissero. "I love teaching in class."

Pelissero's energetic attitude in the classroom is reflected in the way she describes her passion for what she does. "I can use my creativity," says Pelissero. Teaching keeps her "young and exhausted."

Pelissero says she uses objects in the classroom to keep the students motivated. Her office, located on the third floor of the Simcoe building, displays a wand and a feather scarf she often brings to class because, she says, she'll try "anything to make it enjoyable." Pelissero says the idea is to get the students "caught up in it" in order to have an enjoyable time and develop their skills.

Pelissero says she would like to see the the program extended in order to cope with "very rapidly changing information." Dental Hygiene is a two-year program and Preventive Dental Assisting is a one-year program.

Constant restructuring and advances in the program make the students have to absorb more information in a shorter period of time, says Pelissero. Cost factors affecting the program, Pelissero says, cause them to face doing "more with less."

A native of the Niagara region, Pelissero says she was interested in teaching here because of its good reputation in dentistry. She says she opted for teaching at Niagara rather than teaching in the Toronto area for this reason.

"I knew Niagara had a good program. It is a leader in keeping on the cutting edge in this industry."

Pelissero says she was also attracted to the methods and treatments her program uses in the classroom and in the dental clinic.

A graduate of the University of Toronto, Pelissero has worked as a hygienist for 31 years. During this time, one of Pelissero's accomplishments was establishing a preventive clinic in St. Joseph's Hospital in Hamilton, Ont. There, Pelissero says, she was responsible for setting up and organizing the equipment in the hospital.

On March 21, Pelissero's love for her job took her across the world to Germany and Russia, for an opportunity to educate, lecture and demonstrate the same dentistry methods practiced at Niagara College.

In Russia, Pelissero is working with individuals whose dental hygiene is affected by disabilities. She will "show them methods we use," says Pelissero. "They (Russian dental practice) are about 50 years behind in technology and knowledge from what we practice now in the field of dentistry."

Pelissero's time in Germany, where she was born and lived until the age of five, will be spent giving lectures on a dental hygienist's duties and other information relating to her job. She will be "promoting dental hygiene" during her time in both countries.

PERSONALITIES

Motive power training advances at Niagara

By CASSANDRA SCAPILLATI
Staff Writer

The new state-of-the-art Skill Centre at Niagara College is rapidly advancing while the industrial demand for graduates increases.

The new Skill Centre for Motive Power Training, at the Welland campus, is the only form of education for motive power trades in the Niagara region.

"Motive power trade is currently suffering a tremendous shortage of technicians," says Dave Spear, co-ordinator at the Skill Centre.

Spear, 58, of Fort Erie, teaches motive power training at the college. He taught part time for 12 years before becoming a full-time program co-ordinator. In addition, Spear runs a family-owned business in Fort Erie, a general repair shop that has operated for 37 years. He served two apprenticeships and is licensed in two trades, as an autobody and collision damage repairer, and as an automotive technician.

With such a strong background in the motive power industry, Spear was asked to expand the automotive programs at the college.

'Two years ago we had about 40 per cent occupancy, last year 50 per cent and this year 90 per cent.'
— Dave Spear

The idea of the centre came into play 10 years ago, says Spear. "Dan Patterson, Niagara College president, was vice-president at the time. He wanted motor (power training) to advance," he explains.

Spear says it took about eight years to position themselves properly. However, financial assistance to build the centre was promoted through two major fund-raisers. Also, $2 million was donated by means of money, equipment and services. This money came from major automotive companies, benefactors, friends and supporters.

Spear, who designed the centre, says about 300 students a year are enrolled into the automotive programs at the building.

"Two years ago we had about 40 per cent occupancy, last year 50 per cent and this year 90 per cent," says Spear.

Graduates of the program are trained and qualified for immediate entry into a wide variety of technical and administrative motive power occupations.

This industry "changes so rapidly and is so advanced. We have to educate people in our area (Niagara region) to fix cars," Spear says.

Students trained in the automotive field are provided training using cutting-edge technology at the Skill Centre.

"Most trades in our country Canada, in Ontario and in the Niagara region are experiencing a shortage of skilled tradespeople," says Spear.

DAVE SPEAR
-File Photo

Throughout the year, he says he plans to work on four ministry programs.

These programs "involve updating curricula for specific apprenticeship trades," says Alan Mutch, development officer at the centre.

The four ministry programs include Automotive Service Technician, Alignment and Brake Technician, Transmission Technician and the newest one, Automotive Electric Accessory Technician.

Mutch says the project will cost about $140,000.

All of these advancements made by Spear and others involved at the centre contribute to the auto industry and to the success of well-trained graduates at the centre.

"I'm having fun, I enjoy it and the industry has been behind us 100 per cent," says Spear.

Counsellor guides community to higher education

By SARAH THOMSON
Staff Writer

Dominic Trimboli, 39, of Niagara Falls, Ont., has been a counsellor for about 18 years.

He started counselling at the Youth Employment Counselling Centre, in Niagara Falls, and has been at Niagara College since 1985.

"I like my job. I like being able to help out. It's never the same thing," said Trimboli.

'Every individual is different. Every individual's situation is different. No one person is the same.'
— Dominic Trimboli

Trimboli attended Niagara College in the Social Service Worker program in 1982 and has been working for the college since.

Trimboli said he works with the community and with the students.

"I help people in the community who are considering coming to college. I look at their strengths and the choices they are making. I help them get information about the programs they want to take."

Trimboli said he helps the students by getting them information, as well as giving them counselling and helping them develop skills such as how to study.

"I'm finding more and more that students are coming in with personal concerns. There are a lot of single moms, mature students and working students, and they all have a lot on their plates."

Trimboli said he has an average of five or six students visit his office in a day.

"Sometimes it can be eight to 10 students on a busy day."

Trimboli said that when counsellors can't deal with a specific problem, they do a lot of "referring" to other offices. This is when a problem may arise that the counsellors are "unable to deal with" and they have to refer the student elsewhere. These are things such as medical or financial problems, even residential problems.

"Every individual is different. Every individual's situation is different. No one person is the same."

Trimboli said he doesn't have any problems with his job except with students "not following through on things."

"It's hard when you're making suggestions to a person and you feel that the person is making the wrong decision," said Trimboli.

Trimboli is attending classes at Brock University in St. Catharines, McMaster University in Hamilton and Ryerson University in Toronto, to learn new information.

"I can pick up new skills and knowledge."

Trimboli splits his time between the Welland campus and the Maid of the Mist campus in Niagara Falls.

Trimboli and other counsellors take part in events at the college, such as workshops and student Orientation.

He said they hold workshops throughout the year on handling stress, studying and test skills.

Trimboli is involved in a program called Start Right, a workshop for new students, which teaches them budgeting and other skills for success.

Psychology counsellor lands teaching position after realizing dream 'to play with the Beatles' was not an option in his career

After 10 years of counselling, Tallon traded in his psychological advice for a teaching position at Niagara.

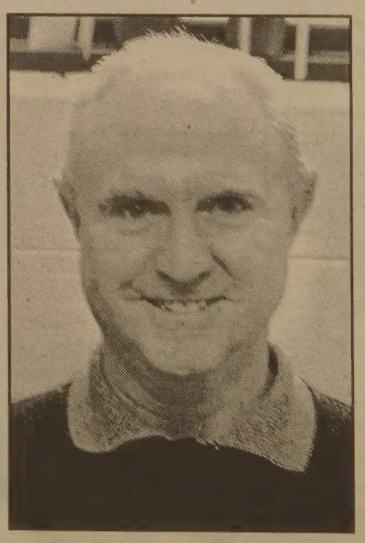
By RYAN JANZEN
Staff Writer

It's been 31 years since he started at Niagara College, but Bruce Tallon says he is "still doing what I love."

Tallon, of Welland, has worked here since 1969 as a psycology professor at the Welland campus.

Raised in Windsor, Ont., Tallon says he always knew what he wanted to be. "I like to help people and knew that I wanted to get into psychology." Tallon is a graduate of the honours Bachelor of Arts and Psychology programs at the University of Windsor.

In 1967, Tallon packed his bags and moved to Welland. "I was going to play with the Beatles but moved to Welland instead," jokes Tallon. He found a part-time job working at the St. Catharines General Hospital as a psychometrist. Tallon explains a psychometrist is a person who performs psychological tests on people. In addition, he was involved in play and group therapy. During his time there, Tallon attended Niagara University in Niagara Falls, N.Y. and received his master's degree in counselling. He used that degree to land himself a professional counselling job here.



BRUCE TALLON

After 10 years of counselling, Tallon traded in his psychological advice for a teaching position at Niagara College. "I love working with students," says Tallon. He says the students are well behaved and co-operate with him. He says out of all the years he has taught at the college there has only been one hostile situation that he can remember. He says two girls became "very" upset with each other and almost got into a fight. Tallon says he dealt with the situation properly and nothing further developed.

Tallon's hours of work are different each day. "I like the fact that my hours vary each day. The best part is the freedom that you have."

'I like the fact that my hours vary each day. The best part is the freedom that you have.'
— Bruce Tallon

During his time as a teacher, Tallon says he has kept busy with a few side projects. He worked at Jacquie Herman and Associates for four years as a Broad Brush counsellor. "You see everything from substance abuse to marital counselling."

Tallon taught independent evening courses until eight years ago for McMaster University, in Hamilton, and Ryerson Polytechnic University, in Toronto. "It was great," says Tallon of his experience. "People . . . were from all parts of the community, ranging from policemen to bankers."

Tallon says that if he hadn't gotten into the field of psychology he probably would have gone into the business and service industry perhaps in a career in marketing sales. He thinks he could do well for himself, he says, adding, "I'm sure I would have adapted well to the situation."

Tallon says he has an idea of what his life will be like after teaching playing squash, cycling and relaxing. He would like to get involved in the community, adding he'd like to "volunteer for people less fortunate."

College Connections

Students getting value for dollar, survey says

By CHRISTINA COLLI
Staff Writer

What does Niagara College have to offer you?

Niagara has more than 80 full-time, part-time, post-graduate and apprenticeship programs at its three campuses in Welland, Niagara-on-the-Lake and Niagara Falls.

There are 5,020 full-time students, 2,466 part-time students and 4,829 students in other training programs, says *Maclean's Guide to Canadian Universities and Colleges*. In the same article, it says last year, 94.5 per cent of Niagara College graduates had found employment within six months.

Are Niagara students satisfied with their programs?

With tuition costs of $1,716 and upwards, not including the cost of living, getting what you pay for is a concern for any college student, says Bill Heikoop, a second-year student in the Art and Design Fundamentals — Graphic Design program.

Heikoop, of Fonthill, says he'd recommend his program. "There isn't really anything that I'd change, to be perfectly honest," says Heikoop, 20. "Maybe more freedom to come up with our own ideas (for projects).

"The teachers are all pretty good and seem to know what they're doing. They're all experts in their field."

Thais Aun, 19, moved to North America from Brazil in January of last year and is in her first year of Business Administration at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the Lake.

"I would recommend my program because the teachers at Niagara listen to the students," says Aun. "They are always trying to improve, to do anything they can to make us like the college."

Yvonne Stephens, of St. Catharines, says she'd change some things about the Police Foundations program. "I think it's a really interesting program, but some of the courses are in the wrong order."

Stephens, 29, says it might make more sense if certain things "we learned in second term, were learned in first, like learning politics before learning criminal civil law."

"It would have made more sense that way."

Stephens took the program since the college cancelled the Health Care Aid program in 1991. She says she liked it and worked for a few nursing agencies before deciding she'd like to be a police officer.

First-year Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film program student John Norris says the only thing he'd change about his program is "all the extra hours of work you have to put in."

"Broadcasting's good. It could be better. There's a ton of work, way more that I thought," says Norris, 20, of Paris, Ont.

He says the teachers are nice, helpful and easy to get along with, but "they put a lot of pressure on you. They expect you to know everything, even if you've only learned it once."

He says he'd recommend the program because the teachers always make sure you know what you're doing and will help you to find a job.

'Win-win' campus tours showcase services, programs

By RYAN SUTHERLAND
Staff Writer

As most secondary students relaxed on March Break, others came to Niagara College for a guided tour of the campuses.

Randy Conlon, 33, manager of student recruitment, enrolment and registration services, says Niagara College begins recruiting early in the year, with fall being the busiest season.

With a larger target market and increased staff, Conlon says, "We go to a lot more places than we used to." He says those changes mean the college must get out to talk to more potential students and applicants.

Conlon says 60 per cent of enrolled students at Niagara come from the Niagara region while the remaining 40 per cent come from outside it.

Niagara's Welland campus houses about 2,850 students. Enrolment has increased by about 1,000 students in the past decade, and this past year has seemed to maintain those numbers, says Conlon.

In past years, there have always been March Break tours, although this year's tours were different. The tours were pre-scheduled and more organized, running at 10 a.m., noon, and 2 p.m.

Prior to the tours, Pat Phipps, manager of financial aid and awards, says she explains different financial services, such as the Ontario Student Assistance Program, bursaries, awards and on-campus jobs. During the tours, potential applicants are introduced to some program co-ordinators, directors and teachers. The tours also allow potential students to be exposed to such student services as the computer lab, gymnasium, peer tutoring and food services.

"This is great, having an on-campus tour," says Dave Clayton, 17, of Thorold. Clayton says he "is considering" entering the Journalism-Print program. The location was a positive aspect in his decision, says Clayton.

These tours are a good experience for potential students, and it also gives Niagara an opportunity to show off its improvements, says Conlon. "It's a win-win situation all around."

"I would strongly encourage anyone who is making this decision to visit one or two colleges, so that, in the end, their final decision is an educated one. Giving students support towards choosing the right school is important, because a lot of people don't take this decision as seriously as they should be," says Conlon.

Shelly Keefe, 18, of Redrock, Ont., says she heard about Niagara College through guidance counsellors and by reading numerous brochures. Keefe says she is interested in attending the college in the fall because of the its Health Science Preparatory program. Keefe says despite its "morbid" looking facilities and its large population, the college seems to have a friendly atmosphere and general population, compared to other schools she has visited.

'Niagara was my first choice'

By STEPHANIE HULL
Staff Writer

You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll make new friends and lasting memories.

No, it's not summer camp. It's Niagara College.

For many students, college is a time for fun, parties and new experiences. What do people look for when choosing a college to attend?

John Norris, 19, of Paris, Ont., says he chose Niagara, in Welland, because "it had the best residence."

The Welland residence, where Norris lives, has everything a new student on his or her own needs: air-conditioned furnished suites, colour television, a kitchen with a fridge and microwave, and a private three-piece bath.

Annaka Norman, 18, of London, Ont., says, "I like the privacy, my roommate, and the friends I've made here at residence."

David Thompson, 18, and Mike VanMil, 22, say they chose the college because it was the only one where they were accepted. Both are in the Paramedic program and say it was a tough program to get into.

Thompson, of Burlington, says, "Niagara was my first choice regardless of whether or not I would have been accepted into any other schools. I like the area."

VanMil, of Whitby, Ont., says, "I like how personal it (the college) is. I like how the students and staff are so open."

Thompson says he applied to the program because he heard good things about it and of the school from "the paramedic at co-op who attended here."

Part of the college experience is making friends and sometimes a little more than just friendship will develop.

Thompson says he is thankful he chose Niagara College because "it was here I met the girl of my dreams."

There are many opportunities to meet new people at the After Hours, the pub at the Welland campus.

Norris says, "I like the atmosphere of the pub. There is always something new going on every night."

Norman says, "I like the Comedy Nights at the pub. I am not 19, so it's good I can be entertained without drinking."

But like every college, Niagara isn't just about fun and games. In the midst of having fun, students say they worry a lot about their schoolwork.

Norris, who is in his first year of the Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film program, says, "it (school) was way harder than I was ready for, but I know good things are going to come out of it." Thompson says he works hard doing about 15 hours of homework a week. "My program is a lot of hard work," he says, "but I know I am getting the skills I will need for the field."

JOBS

Leave the Pack Behind is looking for YOU!
We are filling team positions for the fall. Further details available on our Web site at
www.leavethepackbehind.org
Please submit a resume to Welland Health Services or email
leavethepackbehind@yahoo.ca
Attention: Andrea Kita/Carolyn Gould
Deadline: APRIL 30, 2001

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM CHAIR: (1 position available)
- Looking for a student who is organized, responsible and interested in tobacco awareness
- Must have some experience with media writing and design
- Strong leadership skills an asset and comfortable with public speaking
- Supervisory experience an asset

PEER SUPPORT CHAIR: (1 position available)
- Looking for a student who is organized, responsible and interested in tobacco awareness
- Supervisory experience an asset
- Must be enrolled in Social Work after completion of an undergrad degree

PEER SUPPORT TEAM: (2 position available)
- Looking for students who are good listeners, understanding and interested in tobacco awareness
- Must be enrolled in Social Work after completion of an undergrad degree
- Willing to travel to all 3 campuses

COMMUNICATION TEAM: (6 position available)
- Looking for students who are outgoing, responsible and interested in tobacco awareness
- Able to work independently, as well as, on a team
- Experience with media campaigns an asset

NEWSPAPER/WEB DESIGN: (1 position available)
- Looking for a student who is creative, reliable and interested in tobacco awareness
- Will be responsible for bi-weekly submissions to Niagara News, as well as, updating the Webmaster to promote program events on campus
- Must have some media writing experience
- enrolment in journalism an advantage

Leave the Pack Behind

http://www.leavethepackbehind.org

Funding for this program has been provided in part by the Ontario Tobacco Strategy, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. No endorsement by the ministry is intended or should be inferred. La Stratégie antitabac de l'Ontario, Direction de la santé communautaire et de la promotion de la Santé et des Soins de longue durée finance ce programme en partie. Le ministère ne sanctionne d'aucune façon l'information contenue dans cette publication.

The 'Leave the Pack Behind' name for this program has been adopted, with permission, from the World Health Organization's 1999 World No Tobacco day campaign.

Created by: Catherine Leblanc & Erika Steibelt, Queen's University

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

ESL co-ordinator finds job 'very rewarding'

By MISATO ARAI
Staff Writer

Susan Vandenboom says she will end her career as the co-ordinator in the English as a Second Language (ESL) program, and devote herself to teach in the ESL at Niagara College. The reason is that the college decided to adopt a rotating co-ordinatorship.

Vandenboom, 40, of Fonthill, is an ESL co-ordinator at the Welland campus, Niagara College.

She came to the college as an ESL teacher in August 1991. At that time, there was no co-ordinator in the program as there were only herself and another part-time teacher.

"The reason why we didn't have a co-ordinator is that there were only eight students, so we didn't really need a co-ordinator."

She became the co-ordinator a few years later. Her jobs are to organize who will teach which classes, to order the textbooks, and to ensure that the course information sheets are done and ready to hand out to the students. She organizes regular staff meetings, as well as an orientation, end of the term ceremony, teachers' schedules and mid-term and final exam schedules. She oversees the organization of Canadian conversation partners for international students, as well.

'It's important that they get our latest materials so that they know what's going on at Niagara College.'

Vandenboom teaches the ESL students 12 hours a week. The rest of the hours, she is working in her office. While she is there, many students visit her to talk about their experiences in Canada and in the program. She says, "I talk about homesickness and culture shock. I listen, and give advice."

She has a job to do outside of the school. She goes to Japan for an education fair once a year. Vandenboom goes to Osaka, Nagoya and Tokyo. Representatives of many colleges, universities and private schools in Canada go to Japan and promote their ESL programs and their schools.

She says students are interested in the ESL programs and the post-secondary programs. "Particularly, about our ESL program, they want to know what we do, how long it is, how much it costs," adding, "They want to know what they need to go on, to go to a post-secondary program, so I give them lots of information."

'You can see them doing very well in Canada. I think it's very rewarding for me to see this as a teacher.'

While in Japan, Vandenboom goes to see the agencies with which the college deals. The agencies send students to Niagara College every year. "It's important that they get our latest materials so that they know what's going on at Niagara College."

As for her own educational background, she graduated from the University of Western Ontario in London, Ont., with an education degree. Her teachable subjects are French and English. She started as a French teacher, but she says she decided she didn't want to teach French. Then, Vandenboom went back to school to study Teaching English as a Second Language at York University, in North York, Ont., and Brock University in St. Catharines, as a part-time student.

Before coming to Niagara College, she worked at Fanshawe College in London, Ont. She says although it was a good job, it was not a permanent full-time job.

"There wasn't a lot of stability in the job, because you never know if your contract would be renewed or not." While at Fanshawe College, she found the advertisement for a permanent full-time instructor's job at Niagara College. "The job description I read it, and I thought, this is me. It was exactly what I was looking for."

Vandenboom says she likes and enjoys her job, because she enjoys knowing people who come from all over the world and she can see the students' improvements as time goes by.

"You can see them becoming stronger independent individuals, and you can see them doing very well in Canada. I think it's very rewarding for me to see this as a teacher."

She says she appreciates how difficult it is for students to learn English in a new environment, especially students who have a completely different way of writing and grammatical structures. Besides different languages, she says she learns about different food, music and places in their countries.

She says teaching is what she likes best, although she enjoys collaborating and sharing ideas with teachers. As for whether she has thought about quitting her job, she responds, "Never, not for one minute." She felt like quitting when she was a university student, though it was not serious, says Vandenboom. "But I always knew that not graduating was not an option."

She says she would like to see further internationalization at Niagara College. "I would like all of our students, including international students, to be more aware of the world as a global village."

ESL Coming Winter Activities

Surprise Activity	April TBA	Let your imagination wander. It's fun and exciting. You'll find out.
St. Jacob's Trip	April 21 - 9 a.m. meet at the flagpoles	Visit the factory outlet and St. Jacob's market. Tour Mennonite country. Don't miss it. It's free.
End-of-Term potluck party	April 27 - 7:30 p.m. to midnight at After Hours	Your chance to say goodbye to your favourite teachers and classmates. Bring enough food for five people. Be prepared to laugh, cry and say goodbye.

PINECREST
LODGE
Ontario Canada
An all Season Getaway on the Ottawa River
* Housekeeping Cabins
* Private Beach *
* Convenience Store *
Boat & Motor Rentals
Fishing, Hunting,
Hiking, Canoeing,
Cross Country Skiing,
& Snowmobiling
Your Resident Hosts
Caroline & Rusty
Lindley
521 Pinecrest Road, R.R. #1
Deep River, Ont.
K0J 1P0
1-866-PINECREST (746-3273)
www.pinecrestlodge.com

Shelburne girl following her dream

By WARAPHAN GRIFFITH
Staff Writer

She was a little girl in a small town. She used to teach English in Japan. Now, she is working at Niagara College.

Joanne Maltby, 28, of St. Catharines, works part time as an international student adviser in the International Education and Development department at Niagara College's Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Maltby grew up in Shelburne, Ont. She has one older brother and one older sister. When Maltby was 18, she went to Denmark for one year as an exchange student.

'I like to deal with many people from all over the world. It's exciting.'

Maltby studied German literature and cultural study at the University of Victoria in British Columbia. After she graduated in May 1999, she went to Japan to teach English as a second language for one year. Maltby got her job in September 2000.

Maltby says she likes helping people, and her dream is to work for the Canadian International Development Agency. "I like to deal with many people from all over the world. It's exciting."

Maltby's job is to help the international students with any problems that they might have and to organize social activities for them. She helps the international students with visa extensions, medical insurance, and problem solving issues involving culture shock and homesickness.

Maltby says it's a good opportunity to work here because her job is similar to what she wants to do. "I'm only at the beginning."

About 280 international students attend Niagara College, with about 60 students at the Glendale campus. They are from different countries. Not only are their cultures and traditions different, but so are their individual personalities.

Maltby says she tries to understand them. "Sometimes it's difficult, but most of the time I really enjoy it." She says she doesn't have any "big problem" in her job. "The only problem is I'm not full time. I'd like to be full time."

When Maltby is off from work, she says she likes to exercise, read and to travel.

Maltby says she likes snowboarding, mountain biking, rollerblading and volleyball. "I like to use my body and I'm competitive."

Reading books about philosophy and new-age thinking, Maltby says explores different ways of thinking.

'Everyone always has the same heart (to be human).'

She says she has learned many things from reading and travelling.

Maltby says she'd like to go to as many countries as possible, and she'd like to go to Nepal for her vacation. She says she likes to learn and see different cultures; however she thinks people are the same everywhere in the world. "Everyone always has the same heart (to be human)."

Maltby says she has learned that you can't judge people by their appearances. "Everyone looks differently, but it doesn't matter. Every single person in the world has the same feeling of a human being."

Maltby says family is "very important" to her. "They've been giving me a lot of support even though I'm different." She says she is different from the rest of her family because she has done a lot of travelling. "They respect what I do, and they help me when they can. I love my family."

COMMUNITY UNITY

Financial friendship boosts local economy

By SEAN F. TAYLOR
Staff Writer

Niagara College and the city of Welland have a symbiotic relationship that goes beyond money and the economy.

"We (the college) have a very strong relationship with the city, and the city has a strong relationship with us. This relationship will stand for a long time to come," says Steve Hudson, 44, vice-president of corporate services at Niagara College.

Hudson, of St. Catharines, is a recent addition to the college. He has been the vice-president of corporate services for seven months, but has "long-term goals" to stay at the college until he "retires or is fired, whichever comes first." An engineer by trade, Hudson, who has a bachelor of arts degree, completed his undergraduate degree at Royal Military College in Kingston, Ont., and got his post-graduate degree at the University of Toronto. His job provides many opportunities to address responsibilities from varied administrative sectors within the college.

"My job allows me to perform aspects of finance, human resources, the building and maintenance of college facilities, as well as the planning of new facilities all at once."

Hudson says that corporate sponsorships are a "big part" of his job. "For example, Canadian Tire is a large part of the college. We have a partnership with them. Their employees come here for corporate training and they provide us with facilities."

The college has an operating budget of $54 million, "70 per cent of the college's expenditures are in salaries." The college has "roughly 3,200 students here (in Welland). We have 480 full-time staff, probably 320 of which live in or are working out of Welland."

Of the $54 million, Hudson says that the "majority of this" is returned to the local economy. Because Niagara College is a Crown corporation, a corporation owned by the provincial government, property taxes are not paid. "What we pay is a student head tax. We pay the government $75 per student . . . it is what is called a payment in lieu of tax, or payment instead of tax."

"Certainly the college is a benefit to the local economy. We are always trying to find companies to begin a relationship with." Hudson says there aren't any major specific companies "that we are looking at to create a new corporate sponsor . . . or even a corporate partner, if I may call it that."

The college is open to meeting with local companies who wish to support the college and its growing community.

Hudson says the college provides contracts to the local companies at every opportunity, whether it is the "remodeling of the After Hours pub, landscaping or snow removal we employ as many local companies as we can, we want to create as many jobs as we can."

Local businesses agree that their business "gets a boost when school is in," but also when the college provides its residence to businesses and visiting sports teams.

Sydna Durley is an assistant manager and a nine-year employee at Avondale Food Stores, at 456 First Ave., in Welland. "About 45 per cent of our customers are from the college during the school months and we see a big increase in sales."

"The kids are great" and there haven't been any problems. One of the store's five employees is a student at the college, she says.

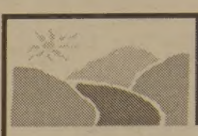
The store is on First Avenue, directly across from the college's Welland campus.

Durley says the college helps her local business but doesn't "think it has a big impact on Welland's economy, unless, of course, you are talking about the bars."

Citizens of Welland tend to agree that Niagara College is "beneficial to not only Welland's economy but to its culture as well."

David Terpstra, 53, of Welland, says, "The college provides jobs to the people of this community, as well as giving older and out-of-work people a source of income." Referring to citizens providing spare rooms for rent in their homes, he says, "In the past, I have had students in my home and I think it is a great opportunity to give the kids a home atmosphere away from home."

Terpstra says the college has given the city "extra flavour" and has helped to give Welland "an identity."



The Next Step

Do you have a CAAT college diploma?

Do you want a university degree?

Depending on your GPA, you may be eligible for the
DEGREE-DIPLOMA COMPLETION PROGRAM
or transfer credits and complete a degree at Laurentian University.

You may study either full-time or part-time on campus or through our distance education program, Envision.

You have a head start! Take the next step — contact the Centre for Continuing Education at Laurentian University at (705) 673-6569 or CCE_L@nickel.laurentian.ca .

Envision

Laurentian University / Université Laurentienne

www.laurentian.ca/cce/index.htm

NEW for 2001!

Best Prices on all new Clarion decks!

Some Great Clearouts on Discontinued models!

clarion® CAR AUDIO & BEYOND

DXZ615 ProAudio

AM/FM CD PLAYER W/CD CHANGER CONTROLLER DIN CHASSIS W/FLIP DOWN DETACHABLE FACE PLATE

- Optional Aluminum Accent Plates Available in Gold, Blue, Red, Grey and Black Chrome
- BEQ Selector / Rotary Volume Control
- High Contrast Multi-Color LCD Display
- Touch-n-Go ™ Flip Down Aluminum Escutcheon Face
- CeNet Controller / Multi-Changer Capable (CD/MD)
- 6 Ch/4 V RCA Line Level Output with Non-Fade Subwoofer Output
- Subwoofer Level Control
- 200 Watt (50W x 4)
- TV Tuner Control
- EQ/DSP/Crossover Control
- Adjustable 3-Band Parametric Equalizer
- Zero-Bit Detector ™ Mute Circuit
- 8X Oversampling Digital Filter
- Dual 1-Bit D/A Converters
- 2 Channel AUX inputs
- Magi-Tune® + FM / 18 FM/6 Am Presets
- Infrared Remote Control Included

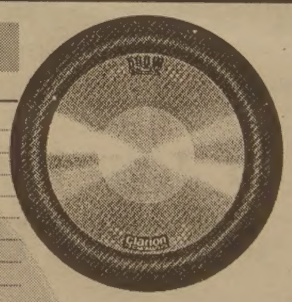
DB415 ProAudio

AM/FM CD PLAYER DIN CHASSIS W/ FLIPDOWN DETACHABLE FACE PLATE

- Z-Enhancer EQ Selector / Rotary Volume Control
- High Brightness Multi-Color LCD Display
- Touch-n-Go ™ Flip Down Face
- 4 Channel RCA Line Level Output
- 180 Watt (45 x 4)
- Zero-Bit Detector™ Mute Circuit
- 8X Oversampling Digital Filter
- Dual 1-Bit D/A Converters
- Magi-Tune® + FM / 18 FM/6 AM Presets
- **Optional** IR Remote Control

SRW3041 clarion

12" SINGLE VOICE COIL SUBWOOFER



- Polypropylene Woofer Cone with Titanium Depostion Coating
- Single 4 Ohm Voice Coil
- Stamped Steel Frame
- Heat Resistant Voice Coil
- Kapton Bobbin
- Rear-Vented Pole Piece
- Rubber Surround
- Inverted Dust Cap
- Large Strontium
- Large Strontium Ferrte Magnet
- 500 Watt Maximum Music Power

clarion® CAR AUDIO & BEYOND

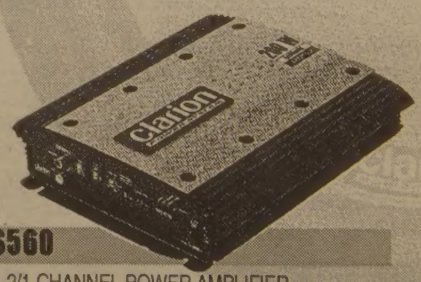
SRS1623

6.5" SEPARATE SPEAKER W/PEI TWEETER

- Polylaminate Woofer Cone
- Balanced Drive PEI Dome Tweeter
- Heat Resistant Voice Coil
- Butyl Rubber Surround
- Strontium Magnet
- 2-way Mounting (Surface/Flush)
- Inline Passive Tweeter Crossover
- 150 Watts Maximum Music Power

BASE ELECTRONICS

871 Niagara Street
Welland, Ontario
732-7168



EQS560

2/1 CHANNEL POWER AMPLIFIER

- Maximum Power Output 200 W
- Continuous Average Power Output 100 W (50W x 2 into 4 ohms 20Hz-20Khz @ 0.05% THD)
- Typical 2-ohm Stereo 110 W x 2 @ 0.5% THD 1kHz
- Typical Bridged Power 1kHz 230 W @0.5% THD
- Bass Extender Control 0 ~18dB @45Hz
- Adjustable 55Hz-5.5kHz, 12dB/oct. High/Low Pass Crossover
- Mixed-Mode Operation
- Bridgeable 2/1 Channel Operation
- MOSFET Power Supply
- Speaker Level Inputs
- Double-Sided Glass Epoxy PC Board

HIRE LEARNING

Graduates getting jobs 'best thing' for adviser

By LAURA LENNIE
Staff Writer

If you are looking for your first job, Niagara College's Job Centre can help.

Karen Brown, a Job Centre consultant at the Welland campus, says the "most rewarding" aspect of her job is to see a Niagara College graduate get a job. "That's the best thing," she says.

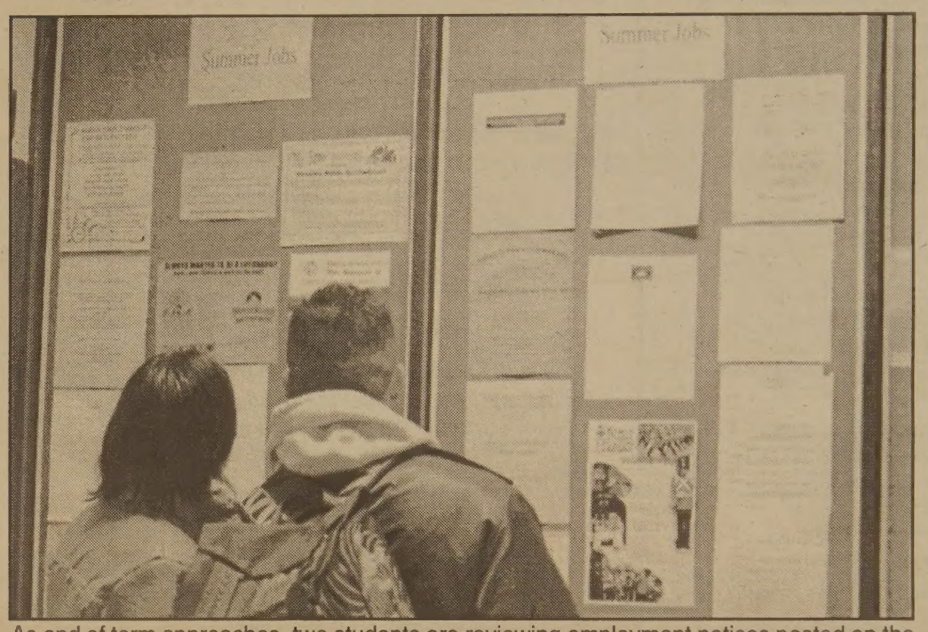
Brown says she talks to the graduates and answers any questions they may have regarding their résume, interviews or "anything that is job-search related."

"If any positions come into the department and are posted on the Web site, I either call or e-mail graduates to let them know positions are available and then I try to get them in contact with the employers. Basically, the bottom line is to try and get them a job when they graduate."

The Job Centre operates an information table every Tuesday, across from the mini-cafeteria, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. to offer the students suggestions on how to "land a job."

"People come up and are generally interested in what we are doing," says Brown.

Brown, 33, of Stoney Creek, Ont., graduated in 1992 from Humber College in Toronto, with a certificate in human resource management.



As end of term approaches, two students are reviewing employment notices posted on the job board outside the Job Centre in the Simcoe building at the Welland campus.
Photo by Christene Wilde

Brown says she worked at the DeVry Institute of Technology in Toronto for five years before joining the staff at Niagara College last October.

"I moved out this way and this job was advertised, so I applied."

Brown says she likes the college environment. "So far, with all the classes I've done presentations in, the people I've run into have been really receptive and polite."

Brown says she likes her co-workers. "My supervisor, Janet Forfar, is a really great person to work with and I like dealing with the graduates. It's just a really good environment to work in."

Brown says the "restricted college budget" limits what can be done for the graduates. "DeVry is a private school, so it makes its profits from high tuition costs, so our efforts for the students could be focused on really trying to recruit employers and getting them interested in our graduates."

Brown says, "It's not just Niagara College, but any college that is funded by the government, has a really restricted budget and you can only do so much."

"We try and do whatever we can, but it's limited. If we had a lot of money we could do a lot of things," she says with a smile.

Brown graduated from the University of Guelph with a bachelor's degree in psychology. "There's not much you can do with a psychology degree, but I have found that people are always, 'oh, psychology, well you must know something,' she says, adding, "it is a good general degree to have."

Brown works part time, 24 hours a week at the college and says she likes the "flexibility" that she has with her hours. "I can pretty much pick and choose when I come in depending on whether or not I have class presentations to do."

> ***'I like dealing with the graduates. It's just a really good environment to work in.'***
>
> ***— Karen Brown***

Brown attends school part time, "so having a part-time job is good for me that way," she says.

Brown, a part-time student at Canisius College in Buffalo, N.Y., says she wants to become a teacher.

"I've been a career counsellor for the last seven years, so it's something I'm getting out of a little bit, not because I don't like it, but just because I want to do something else."

Brown says her profession becomes "hard" when there are few jobs available. "When the economy isn't good, it's a really hard profession to be in because you're trying to motivate people when you know that there's really not many jobs out there."

When a graduate does find a job "that's the best thing," says Brown. "Usually when people have been looking for work for a long time their self-esteem is really low, so when you've helped someone who has been struggling or made someone's day and made them feel better about themselves, then that's rewarding.

"I think anybody in this kind of job finds

Help Wanted

Hiring? Call 735-2211 ext. 7748 to place your ad

Hiring? Call 735-2211 ext. 7748 to place your ad

Summer Camp Jobs in the U.S.A.

Lakeside Residential Girls Camp in Maine—Visas Arranged

Counselors: Combined childcare/teaching. Must be able to teach or lead one or more of the following activities: gymnastics, tennis, swim, sail, canoe, water ski, arts (including stained glass, sewing, jewelry, wood, photo), dance, music, theatre, archery, wilderness trips, field sports, equestrian.

Service Workers: kitchen, laundry, housekeeping, maintenance & grounds.

Non-smokers. June 17 to August 23. Attractive salary (US) plus travel allowance.
Visit our camp on our photo website: **http://homepage.mac.com/kippewaforgirls/**

To Apply: Applications are available on our website: **www.kippewa.com** or contact us at the numbers listed below for a staff brochure and application.

Kippewa, Box 340, Westwood, Massachusetts, 02090-0340, U.S.A.
e-mail: kippewa@tiac.net | tel: 781-762-8291 | fax: 781-255-7167

College Pro

SUMMER JOBS
COLLEGE PRO PAINTERS
IS PRESENTLY LOOKING FOR
RESPONSIBLE, HARDWORKING UNIVERSITY
OR COLLEGE STUDENTS FOR:
• PART-TIME MARKETING POSITIONS IN MARCH AND APRIL
• FULL-TIME PAINTING POSITIONS FROM MAY TO AUGUST
POSITIONS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT ONTARIO
NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
IF INTERESTED, CALL 1-800-465-2839
OR APPLY ONLINE AT:
WWW.COLLEGEPRO.COM

CUSTOMER SERVICE REP

Currency Exchange now hiring at Niagara Falls and N-O-T-L locations. Seasonal full and part-time year round available.
$8.-$8.50 to start, depending on experience.
Cash handling experience needed.
Provide accurate international currency transactions for tourists and business clients. Training provided. Friendly, personable team player needed.
Must be bondable.
Fax or email resumes to:
984-4062 email - stcatharines@customhouse.com
357-5294 email - niagarachc@customhouse.com

STUDENTS!

NEED A SUMMER JOB?

The Summer Jobs Service Program will be on campus registering students interested in summer job opportunities in the Niagara Region. You must be a student aged 15 to 24 (up to 29 if disabled).

Summer Jobs Registration Job Fair Days

Welland Campus
Monday, April 9
12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Glendale Campus
Wednesday, April 11
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Maid of the Mist Campus
Tuesday, April 10
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

For information call 641-2252, ext. 4005 or stop by and visit us at the Glendale Campus, W115

The Summer Jobs Service program is funded by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

SPORTSBEAT

Awards salute Niagara's best in sports

By ROB LUCIANI
Staff Writer

The athletic dominance continued for Graeme Gaunt and Diane VandenHoven as both were awarded Niagara College's male and female athletes of the year respectively for the second consecutive year.

"It's an honour to be recognized, (as) there are a lot of great athletes here," says Gaunt, of Chatham, Ont., after receiving the award at the 32nd annual athletic awards banquet on March 27.

Gaunt, enrolled in the Computerized Numerical Control program, has played two seasons for the Niagara Knights men's volleyball team.

Gaunt's contributions helped lead the volleyball team to its second consecutive Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) West Region and provincial championships. The team finished fourth at the Canadian Colleges Athletic Association (CCAA) with its best-ever league and playoff record of 22 wins and two losses.

"We had a great year, going to the nationals for two years in a row and finishing fourth overall in Canada," says Gaunt.

Finishing second in the West Region scoring race and earning his second league all-star selection, Gaunt received the Most Valuable Player Award in the OCAA Championship match in British Columbia.

Gaunt finished the 2000-2001 season with 171 kills, 17 stuffed blocks and seven service aces for 195 points.

Gaunt was named a CCAA Championship first team all-star and recognized as player of the game for his abilities on the floor.

Gaunt says he will "most likely" be a part of the men's volleyball team next year and hopes to assume a "leader role on the team."

> ***'It's a good way to end my career at Niagara College.'***
> ***— Diane VandenHoven***

VandenHoven, 21, of Mitchell, Ont., says the reception she received after she was announced female athlete of the year was a "great feeling."

"It shows my hard work paid off. It's a good way to end my career at Niagara College."

VandenHoven, a student in the Special Events Management (Post-graduate) program, played a major role in the success of the women's volleyball Knights. She has maintained her status as one of the top scorers in the OCAA West Region for the past three years.

This season, VandenHoven contributed 162 kills, 17 stuffed blocks and 12 service aces for 191 points finishing third in the West Region scoring race.

"My main goal was being positive. We (team) had high expectations."

VandenHoven represented Niagara at a recent OCAA East-West All-Star Game and was selected to play on the Dream Team. The Dream Team selects six players from the 24 who played in the All-Star Game.

"I had the best time ever playing in the All Star Game," says VandenHoven.

The level of competition made VandenHoven "play harder" and brought out the best in her athletic ability, she says.

VandenHoven, who has participated in numerous sports at the college, is concluding her final year at Niagara.

"It was a fun experience. I grew a lot as an individual."

Ray Sarkis, Niagara College athletic director, says VandenHoven and Gaunt are "two of the best athletes in the province."

"They have led their teams both years," says Sarkis.

Both athletes are "hard working, have great attitudes, are team players and disciplined," says Sarkis.

"However Diane (VandenHoven) played is how the team followed. She helped the program succeed."

Gaunt "leads by example" and is "very deserving of the award," says Sarkis.

Niagara College President Dan Patterson congratulated all the athletes for a "great year."

"We've got some of the best athletes in the province at Niagara," says Patterson.

Niagara's athletes reflect on past year, look ahead

By SEAN F. TAYLOR
Staff Writer

The night belonged to the athletes of Niagara College, a family bound by their love of competition. Like the knights of old, the Niagara College Knights teams take pride in the valour, respect and sportsmanship they display on and off the courts and fields. On March 27, these athletes were honoured at the 32nd annual athletic awards banquet held at the Welland campus in the After Hours Pub.

The end of the athletic year is usually a time for reflection and, in some cases, thoughts on how to replace departing players.

"I think next year is relative to who we have coming back," says Frank Nero, coach of the college's men's basketball team. "Virtually the whole team is back, with the exception of one or two players who have exhausted their eligibility, but we're looking at a few young guys to build around."

Nero says, "It's disappointing, after coming back from (Ontario Colleges Athletic Association, OCAA) championships at Humber (College). I thought we were not only a legitimate Ontario contender but also a Canadian contender as well. We had beaten a few of the final eight teams and beaten them pretty badly." His disappointment is shared by many of his players but no more so than Aaron Paisley, the 6'4" power forward in his third and final year with the Knights. "It was real disappointing 'cause I expected a lot from us this year, but it was still fun."

Paisley, 23, of Toronto, is one of the few players who will not be returning to the blue and white of Niagara next year. "At this moment I don't know what I want, but right now my first priority is finishing my course."

While those in the same situation as Paisley are uncertain of their athletic futures. Alexis Fulop, 20, a Law and Security Administration program student and a member of the women's basketball team, is optimistic about her future and that of the team in the upcoming year.

"This volleyball program kicks ass. We are awesome. If it wasn't for people like Ray (Sarkis, athletic director), Kerby (Bentley, assistant coach) and Blair (Cudmore, head coach) this program wouldn't be

> ***'I think our team will do a lot better next year.'***
> ***— Alexis Fulop***

what it is today," says Ross, 19, of London, Ont., a student in the Recreation and Leisure Services program.

Fulop has a different perspective on her first year. A recipient of an OCAA All Academic Award she says of her first season, "It was fun, it was challenging, it was hard but I think it helped me with my schoolwork."

On the court, Fulop says, there was "definite" improvement in teamwork towards the end of the season, which "creates a positive outlook for next year."

"I think our team will do a lot better next year. We were slow starting but after Christmas we started to click as a team. We got along a lot better."

The men's volleyball team repeated as Niagara's most successful team of the year. For the second consecutive year, the Knights men's volleyball team won the OCAA Championship and again finished fourth in Canada at the National Championships in British Columbia.

Graeme Gaunt and Diane VandenHoven were named male and female athletes of the year for the second consecutive year respectively.

Proposed health, fitness program awaits approvals

By ROB LUCIANI
Staff Writer

Society is placing a growing demand on improving the quality of the health and fitness of individuals.

Niagara College is trying to meet those demands.

The Recreation and Leisure Services program has identified an increased need for provision of fitness services in a changing society.

Judy Halaiko, co-ordinator of the Recreation and Leisure Services program, has been responsible for developing the idea of a Fitness Assessment and Health Promotion Certificate program.

This proposed program, which may begin in 2002, is still pending approval from Niagara College's Board of Governors and the Ontario government.

"It's a very new concept. There is a real need for new fitness programs," says Halaiko.

This certification program will be designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills needed to plan, promote and deliver safe and effective fitness and health promotion programs.

In this industry "safety standards" require people to be certified in their field, says Halaiko.

"Most fitness and health service providers are employing only certified personnel."

There are three types of certifications that are recognized by various fitness clubs and organizations in Ontario and nationally: Certified Fitness Consultant, Ontario Leader Certification and Canadian Personal Trainer Network.

"What we are aiming for is that our students can choose what certification that they want to pursue."

In Ontario, four colleges offer a Fitness and Health Promotion program: George Brown College in Toronto, Fanshawe College in London, Cambrian College in Sudbury and Loyalist College in Belleville.

"There is not much competition because the need was not recognized."

Halaiko says other programs at Niagara College would benefit from the proposed Fitness and Health Promotion program.

"Our students will be able to work with other students," says Halaiko.

"This is the time to start. If we could start a fitness awareness program . . . we could enhance the lifestyles of other students (through becoming active in fitness activities)."

The program would benefit from the newly proposed Welland YMCA facility moving to Niagara College, says Halaiko.

> ***'It's a very new concept. There is a real need for new fitness programs.'***
> ***— Judy Halaiko***

"Both programs would benefit. They see the value in certification," says Halaiko. "It will be an incredible enhancement for our program."

Halaiko says students would have the convenience of participating in co-operative education placements at the YMCA facility.

Cost of this program is still too premature to determine. However, Halaiko says it would cost the same as a new "typical college program" that does not require special equipment in order to operate.

Halaiko says, "It's a huge focus in society people have to be made aware of (to become more fit and active). It's a whole lifestyle change."

Niagara College President Dan Patterson says recreation and leisure is a "growth area in opportunity."

"The certification is important. It helps build better credentials. The more industry certification, the better chances they (students) have," says Patterson.

LADIES!!
Join the
NIAGARA REGIONAL LADIES SLO-PITCH LEAGUE

- Opportunity to play at competitive or recreational levels
- No Friday, Saturday or Sunday games
- All Star Game, Awards Banquet and more!
- Join individually or as a team
- SPN & SPO AFFILIATED
- Prime St. Catharines Parks

REGISTER NOW
slopitchniagara@home.com
www.slopitchniagara.com

ENTERTAINMENT

Ashcroft stuns audience with acoustic show

By AARON FOSTER
Staff Writer

"Positive Thinking and A Good Time Had By All" was shown across the backdrop of the stage as people entered the Opera House in Toronto on Jan. 24.

These messages were possibly foreshadowing the night. The building's exquisite interior and beautiful balconies had you thinking that at any moment a Shakespearean starlet would appear.

Fans waited impatiently for Richard Ashcoft as they were forced to listen to soul music and an awful rendition of U2's *One*, sung by Johnny Cash.

In most cases I find crowds awkward and annoying, but these people were tolerable as they seemed to be mature and in their mid-20s.

In famous rock tradition, Ashcroft appeared fashionably late, staggering onto the stage looking like an Elvis impersonator just released from drug rehab.

He got down to business starting out with *Brave New World*. The naked acoustic version of this song made you not care if he just played this song for the rest of the night. It made you remember why you got into him in the first place.

He played familiar singalong tracks including *Lucky Man* and *Sonnet* and was later joined on stage by his wife Kate Radley (on keyboards) and ex-spiritualized sax player and flutist Rico.

These musicians provided a great landscape on songs such as *Space and Time* and *On A Beach* making Ashcroft's voice ascend to the heavens.

Ashcroft's wife sat at her keyboard, stark-faced, looking into the crowd as she played floating organ chords and dumbing down the perception she is a modern-day Yoko Ono.

The naked acoustic version of this song made you not care if he just played this song for the rest of the night.

Ashcroft bounced between Verve tracks and solo material. One of the highlights was his playing of *The Drugs Don't Work*. People sang along, cried and stood motionless as he switched guitars midway through the song because of a broken string.

Autumn leaves provided a backdrop for this song and a blue light shone on his face as he sang "if heaven calls, I'm coming too." Yet another incredible highlight of the show was when he began to play *See You In The Next One . . . Have a Good Time*. Ashcroft introduced the song saying, "this is the first song I've ever written."

It's quite amazing that anyone could write such a beautiful song especially when he was probably only 19 at that time.

Ashcroft left the stage after playing a quite "sexy" and less pretentious version of *New York* and returned quickly for a stunning encore. He barely said anything understandable to the crowd all night, usually talking with his British accent and finishing each sentence with "D'ya know what I mean?"

He started his encore with *A Song for the Lovers*, which sounded much better bare leaving only his voice to save him in this one. He continued to tease the crowd by singing bits of *Lonely Soul* and playing a short piano version of *One Day*.

He strapped on his guitar for the more recognizable tearjerkers of *History* and *On Your Own*. Ashcroft finished his concert playing his former band's biggest hit, *Bittersweet Symphony*.

The crowd sang along and near the end he let them sing by themselves making everyone think they were the choir from *Another Brick in the Wall Part II*. He left the stage saying, "Thank you and I hope to see you in the near future."

Fans quietly left the Opera House chattering about their favourite part or song of the concert.

Sadly, none of William Shakespeare's starlets were found and the message behind the stage that once read A Good Time Had By All was an understatement.

After Hours pub welcomes comic Ben Guyatt

By SARAH THOMPSON
Staff Writer

It was a night full of laughter and entertainment.

The student pub at Niagara College was abuzz when Ben Guyatt, host and producer of Comedy at Club 54, took the stage.

The laughter just kept on coming once Bill Davern, comedian, took the stage with his puppet, Kermit the Frog. It was a night full of jokes, voice impressions and even a comedic act from Kermit himself.

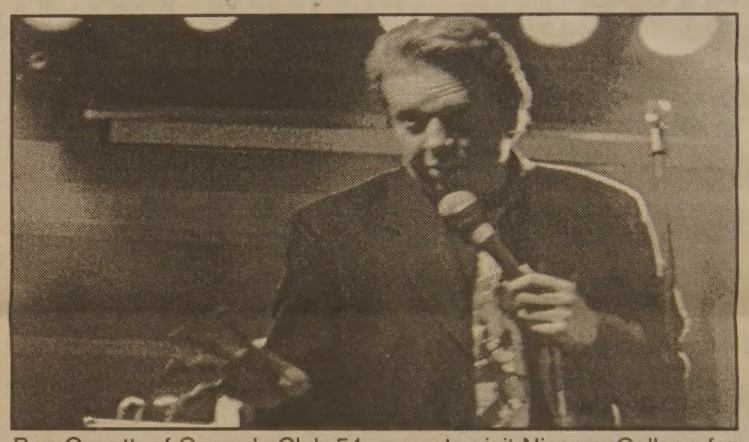
Comedy is, however, "not always as easy as it seems," said Guyatt.

"Comedy is a very serious business."

Guyatt, 39, of Hamilton, has been a comedian for 19 years. He said he first became interested in comedy because his mother used to be his teacher, so he had to " express himself another way."

The Niagara College student pub was abuzz when Ben Guyatt, host and producer of Comedy at Club 54, took the stage.

"I was the class clown, I guess you could say."



Ben Guyatt, of Comedy Club 54, came to visit Niagara College for Wednesday's Comedy Night at After Hours at the Welland campus.
Photo by Christene Wilde

Guyatt said he got more serious in high school. He started at Second City, Toronto.

Guyatt said he enjoys being a comedian. He said the best part was the "high you get after you've had a good show."

He said he enjoys talking with the audience.

Guyatt has hosted Comedy at Club 54 for about eight years.

"It's the longest running standup comedy show seen around the world." Guyatt said he really enjoyed performing for the students at the college.

"It was good. They were a good crowd. I had a lot of fun. They were very hip and into the acts."

Sigur Ros creates new sounds

By AARON FOSTER
Staff Writer

Breath-taking plus dramatic plus gorgeous equals intense bliss.

That's the mathematical equation summing up the album **Agaetis Byrjun** by Icelandic quartet Sigur Ros.

This band stands on a musical plateau of its own.

The album released in the United Kingdom on Aug. 15 last year is available in North America as an import only. The band plans to release the album worldwide in two months.

Agaetis Byjrjun, translated into English, means "a good beginning" or "a good start." This is an understatement for such youthful musicians because its second album soars well above anything released in the music industry recently.

The album floats like a dream — from beautiful orchestrations and luscious vocals to terrifying soundscapes with violin-bowed guitar. These elements are proof of the dream-like quality this album incorporates.

One would think songs like *Svefn G Englar* and *Staraflur* would be the musical soundtracks to the journey inside a mother's womb. The falsetto singing of Jon Thor conveys an underwater-like ambience and enters your ears like an instrument created from heaven. *Olsen Olsen* can be described only one way: as the sound a teardrop makes when it lands on a frozen pond in outer space amplified especially for the human ear.

Although the band sings in Hopelandic (a hybrid of English and Icelandic) it doesn't take away from the evocative sonic beauty heard in the epic song *Vidrar Vel Til Loftarasa*. The entering piano melody, passionate wail and eruptive guitar will reduce even the most dedicated tough guy into tears of joy.

The album ends with a song called *Avalon*, an instrumental blend of circulating orchestral noise and pulses of blackness. It is a good finish for an album that translates into a "good beginning."

Sigur Ros, known for its teary-eyed performances, takes to the stage in Toronto on May 4 at the Palais Royale.

Visit the band's website at www.sigur-ros.com.

Jazz Pharmacy's album displays great use of instrumentals

By CHRISTENE WILDE
Staff Writer

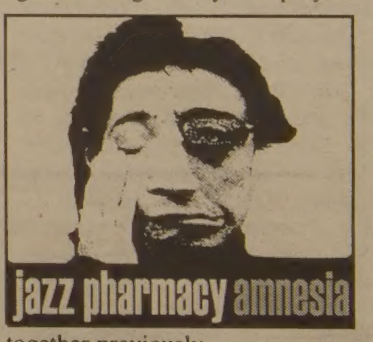
Ranked No.7 across Canada, the band Jazz Pharmacy is a combination of jazz funk and electronics.

Its album **Amnesia** is out, along with the single *Born Leader*. The band also has a video on MuchMusic. This album gives new meaning to jazz with an attitude.

Jazz Pharmacy is based in Montreal, Que., and consists of four talented musicians. Phil Clarke, 27, from Sherbrooke, Que., is the keyboardist and vocalist, Eddy Cola, 27, from Montreal, is the drummer, Phraser Nash, also from Montreal, is the base player and Short Wave Dave (Bennett), 27, from Alberta, is the guitarist, sound effects specialist and back-up vocalist. They all contribute lyrically and musically.

Jazz Pharmacy has played more than 350 shows and is on tour in Canada.

Road manager Dylan Silver said the band hopes to tour in the U.S. and Europe this summer. Originally the group was a trio with Clarke, Nash and Cola. Bennett joined them eight months ago although they've played together previously.



The promoter for the group said their influences are endless but he did list a few, such as George Clinton & the Parliament Funkadelic, Stevie Wonder, Medeski, Martin & Wood and old jazz. Bennett added contemporary, classical and improvisational music.

Jazz Pharmacy's album displays great use of instrumentals, vocals and electronics all rolled into one. Jazz Pharmacy has an informative Web page at www.sinistresound.com.

We Offer Help
Call Us...
Jill Friend
685-7675
Abby's Secretarial Company
When You Need
Typing for Essays, Reports, Assignments & Correspondence
685-7675

Get your next copy of the Niagara News at That's Entertainment Lake Street, St. Catharines

College Roundup

OSAP versus bank loan, a financial balancing act

By KATIE MacKIMMIE
Staff Writer

For several Niagara College students, the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) pays for more than just an education.

The objective of OSAP is to help students from lower-income families meet the costs of post-secondary education. OSAP provides interest-free loans for tuition fees, books, supplies and basic living expenses.

'It was definitely enough, although I could have budgeted better.'
— Jeremy Miller

OSAP, funded by the provincial government, is based on financial need as determined by assessments of applications.

Former Niagara College student Sarah Penny, 19, of St. Catharines, was an OSAP recipient in the 1999-2000 school year.

"I got about $7,000 for the entire year. I got $5,000 first semester and $2,000 second semester." Penny said during first semester, she felt $5,000 was an adequate amount.

"I spent it on tuition, rent, books, groceries, clothes and the bar," she said. "Second semester, $2,000 was definitely not enough." Penny said she had to get a part-time job, which affected her studies and caused her grades to drop.

"I would often have to work late nights or leave classes halfway through to go to work."

Penny reapplied for OSAP the following year. She said she was given $4,000 first semester, but was not enrolled in enough courses and became ineligible to receive OSAP in the second semester.

"I was unable to continue my education at Niagara because of this."

Penny said she must complete two years of a full-time community college program, which she must pay for herself, before she will be eligible to reapply for OSAP. She said she owes OSAP about $11,000 and has 10 years to pay it back.

However, Penny said she feels OSAP is improving. "Last year, no attention was being paid to what the money was being spent on. This year, it is, so people can't abuse the system — which is good."

Niagara College student Jeremy Miller, 20, of Stoney Creek, Ont., is a first-year student in the Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film program. Miller said he received about $8,000 for two semesters.

"It was definitely enough, although I could have budgeted it better," he said. "It paid for tuition and residence fees, and the rest went on pizza and other living and entertainment expenses." Miller said he did not buy the books required for his courses.

'OSAP isn't a very well-run system. They didn't give me half as much money as I needed.'
— Steve Berry

"I worried about paying it back because, right now, $8,000 seems like a lot of money. But with faith in the education system, the job I end up getting out of this program should allow me to pay it back easily."

Steve Berry, 22, of Goderich, Ont., is a first-year Art and Design Fundamentals — Graphic Design Production student. He said he received about $7,000 in OSAP for the year.

"I spent it on tuition, rent, Visa bills and clothes. I ran out of money the week before Christmas in first semester."

Berry said because he was put on academic probation, he was not given enough OSAP second semester to cover rent costs and he had to ask his parents for the rest.

"OSAP has its advantages, but if I had it to do over again, I'd rather get a bank loan." Berry said he wishes he did not have to rely on OSAP. "It would be one less debt to pay off."

"OSAP isn't a very well-run system. They didn't give me half as much money as I needed."

Volleying from country to country

Niagara College's international students enjoyed a volleyball game Wednesday night at the Welland campus gym.

Photo by Sean F. Taylor

Training has applications in business, personal life

By DUSTY JACKSON
Staff Writer

Jamie Eldridge says working with children has always been a dream of hers.

Eldridge, 19, of Hamilton, is a student in the Early Childhood Education program at Niagara College in Welland.

As a part of her program, Eldridge was given the opportunity to work in the Lakeview Community Co-op Daycare Centre in Grimsby. Her main responsibility at the day care centre was to organize activities for the children.

'Their imaginations are full of new ideas, and to be the person who educates them is fulfilling.'
— Jamie Eldridge

"I organized activities that were age appropriate, enhancing cognitive, social, motor and language skills," said Eldridge.

Eldridge says she enjoys working with children because of their innocence. "I love working with them (children) because they are at the age where they haven't been faced with the realities of the world. Their imaginations are full of new ideas, and to be the person who educates them is very fulfilling."

Eldridge says she is enjoying her experience at Niagara College. "The people here are really nice, and I've made a lot of good friends."

Eldridge says she is impressed with the quality of her program. "All of my teachers are really smart, and their knowledge of children astounds me. The program has been really helpful and I will use what I have learned in both my career and my family life."

Eldridge says she is planning to take a business management course after she completes her program in hopes of someday opening a day care centre near her hometown. "It has always been a dream of mine to run my own day care. It will happen someday."

Matching volunteers, candidate uses skills immediately

By WARD BARRETT
Staff Writer

It has been said that today's children need more positive role models.

Sondra Wolbert says she agrees.

The recent graduate of the Child and Youth Worker program has been added to the staff at Fort Erie Big Brothers/Big Sisters and says she is "fitting in nicely."

"The workload of cases is heavy there," she says, "so I was welcomed into the staff and began casework right away."

Her position at Big Brothers/Big Sisters is as a child and youth worker, but her job is to set up candidates with adult volunteers. "It's all about making the right decision so that a child can have a positive role model to grow up with."

'I knew I wanted to stay there when my job became satisfying to work at, and then they hired me full time.'
— Sondra Wolbert

Many single-parent children come to Big Brothers/Big Sisters and are put on a waiting list. "The list is so long, and the staff so few, that a lot of people I know from the (Child and Youth Worker) program are working here and more are coming every year."

Wolbert, 22, says her skills are already being used. "I have to match personalities at work and I was taught how to observe matches in the course."

Wolbert, of Crystal Beach, Ont., says she recognizes the need for such a program. "In a world where most parents are both working, and not much time is spent with their kids, Big Brothers needs all the help it can get from a course designed for it."

Wolbert got a job with Big Brothers/Big Sisters after her placement with the organization during her last year in the program.

She says the placement gave her "time to adjust" to her present job.

"I started off (placement) with easier jobs, but at the end of it, I knew how to do what I'm doing now. I knew I wanted to stay there when my job became satisfying to work at, and then they hired me full time."

Wolbert is involved in efforts to raise funds for the organization through the Bowl for Kids' Sake promotion.

"The way they raise funds is so enjoyable for us (the employees and participants) that I'm pleased to be part of this (organization)."

With her job, she says she is "very much looking forward to the future."

Oscar comes to Niagara

Top-notch chefs' skills showcased at movie gala

By RYAN SUTHERLAND
Staff Writer

It was a night to remember, says Niagara College President Dan Patterson.

Niagara College's Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls played host to the Academy Awards of Food and Wine of Niagara.

While celebrities gathered in Los Angeles, Calif., for the 73rd annual Academy Awards on March 25, Niagara held its fifth Showcase of Chefs prepared by J. Mark Hand, corporate chef and food and beverage manager at the Maid of the Mist Centre.

About 100 guests, paying $130 a plate, first assembled in the Kerrio Room to indulge in some of the Niagara region's finer wines.

MPP Tim Hudak, Ontario's minister of tourism, culture and recreation, was the guest of honour. The other guests included Patterson, his wife, Saundra, Darrell Neufeld, executive assistant to the college president, and David Taylor, the college's director of the hospitality and tourism division.

"Having the Honourable Tim Hudak in attendance was an added highlight to the gala evening," said Patterson.

Prior to dinner being served, Hudak approached the podium to say a brief speech congratulating the college "on a job well done."

"The Minister of Tourism had a good time and enjoyed the evening," said Taylor.

"The minister thoroughly enjoyed the evening, and personally went to each table and engaged in meeting all the guests at the college," said Patterson.

A brilliant montage of movie clips prepared by Taylor, and his brother Greg Taylor, were shown to accommodate the theme of the Academy Awards, said Hand.

A performance of the song *Food Glorious Food,* from Lionel Bart's Oliver, was performed by the cast of the Gypsy Theatre children's chorus production in Fort Erie.

"I think the children performing made the night a little more special," said Hand. "Sunday night's Academy Awards of Food and Wine was the highlight of the chef series in an event few will forget," said Patterson.

Dinner was prepared by five of the best chefs in the Niagara region and served by 12 students from Niagara College working with the chefs in the kitchen. The dinner was served with wines from the region's vineyard estates.

"It was a tremendous success," said Taylor. "It was a great night for the school and the industry to show off, and increase awareness of the Niagara region's food and wine."

"It was a spectacular evening and was a wonderful example of the tremendous effort that staff and students do with the industry," said Patterson, adding this night gave the students a chance to show their potential and gave the chefs a chance to show their talents.

"They (students and chefs) worked unbelievably well together," said Hand, adding 24 students assisted in the event.

The numerous students who prepared for the event did "an excellent job," said Hand. "It was my gig. It was the biggie of biggies, the best one by far."

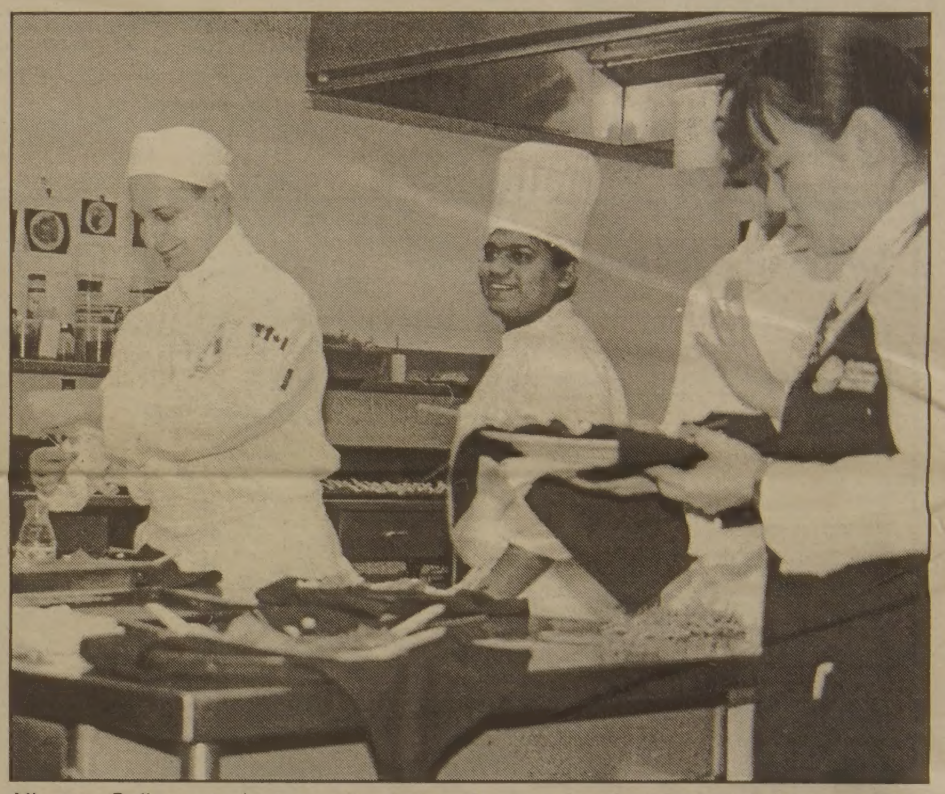
He said everything went as planned "without a hitch. It was going too smooth."

Everyone liked it "so much that they were asking how we would be able to top this event next year," says Hand.

"The leadership at the Maid of the Mist Centre should be congratulated for all their hard work and effort that goes into making such an event," said Patterson.

Dave Taylor, director of hospitality and tourism, and J. Mark Hand, corporate chef and food and beverage manager, greet MPP Tim Hudak, centre, at Oscar Night at Niagara's Maid of the Mist campus in Niagara Falls.

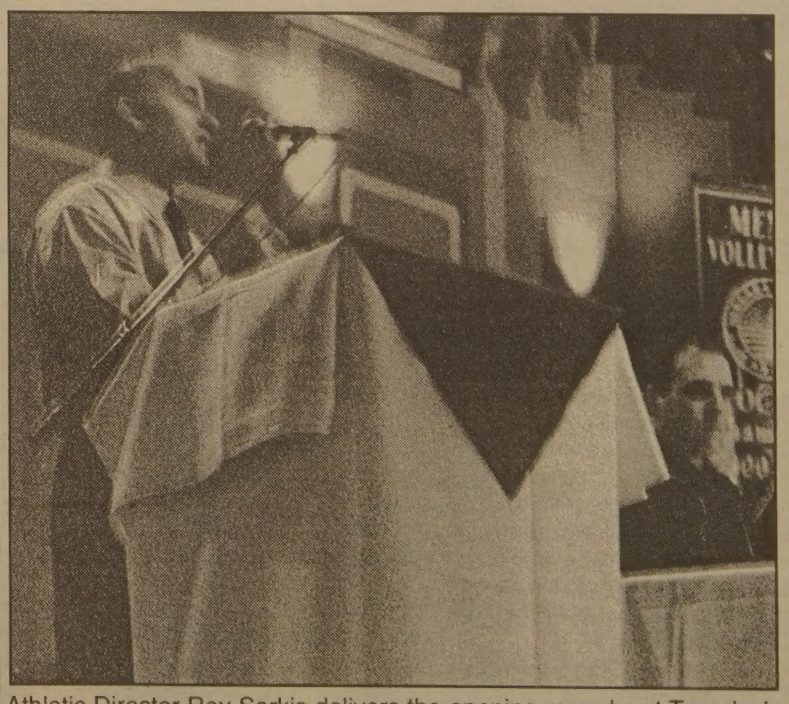
Photo by Ryan Sutherland



Niagara College students are hard at work preparing the elegant dishes served at the Showcase of Chefs.

Photo by Ryan Sutherland

Knights' top athletes honoured at annual banquet



Athletic Director Ray Sarkis delivers the opening remarks at Tuesday's awards banquet. *See story on page 21.*

Photo by Sean F. Taylor

The head table rises as Ray Sarkis prepares to deliver grace to begin the dinner portion of the 32nd annual athletic awards banquet. *See story on page 21.*

Photo by Sean F. Taylor